

# THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

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DECEMBER 5, 2002

## Foreign students confront delays

BY JULIANNA FINELLI  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Two incoming freshmen were prevented from registering for fall classes at Hopkins when their foreign student visa approvals were delayed, according to Director of International Student and Scholar Services Nicholas Arrindell.

One of the students, a resident of Malaysia, decided to withdraw from Hopkins and attend a New Zealand university instead. The other student, a resident of Saudi Arabia, hopes to register for classes at Hopkins in the spring semester of 2003. According to Arrindell, the student is "still going through security clearance," and has been waiting since June for approval.

"We've issued him new paperwork ... [and] are in contact with his family," said Arrindell. "I certainly hope he can come."

According to Arrindell, such hold-ups are not uncommon, especially after the heightened security measures following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Arrindell explained that prospective students who have difficulty obtaining a visa are advised to contact Hopkins' Office of International Student and Scholar Services (OISS). The OISS then contacts the U.S. Consular Services in the student's country to determine the reason for the hold-up.

Stuart Patt, spokesman for the U.S. Bureau of Consular Affairs, said the decision to grant visa approval is ultimately that of the U.S. Consulate in the student's country.

"It's not that students are being singled out," said Patt. "Based on where [the student] is from ... there is a required delay so that inter-agency security reviews can be accomplished."

Although Arrindell said that the U.S. Department of State is not permitted to give information about the students' particular cases, he said that the most common reason for delay relates to Section 214(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INS), which reads, "Every alien shall be presumed to be an immigrant until he establishes to the satisfaction of the consular officer, at the time of application for admission, that he is entitled to a nonimmigrant status..."

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### Women's Basketball defeats Roanoke College, 83-70



NATHAN BATES/NEWS-LETTER

**Junior guard Maureen Myers prepares to take a shot against Roanoke College in Hopkins' victory. Myers earned 16 total points on the day, second best on the team. The Women's Basketball team opened the season at the Blue Jay Invitational on Saturday Nov. 23 against St. Mary's. See story on page A12.**

## Online registration slowed

BY ALEX QUINONES  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

University officials have not yet been able to figure out why the online registration Web Services system failed to work properly during the recent registration period for the upcoming spring semester.

Information Systems Associate Registrar Craig Smith said he was not sure what caused the server slowdown, but he said he did not think it was a volume issue.

"We ran stress-tests beforehand to make sure that it could handle the number of students," he said.

Hopkins Information Technology Services personnel will meet to discuss the issue next week, said Smith.

"By next semester we will definitely know [what went wrong]," he said.

Smith also explained that the current web-based registration platform is only a temporary system. According to the Office of the Registrar, a more permanent system will be up and running in the next couple of years.

Until then, improvements will be made to address the current system's shortcomings. For instance, Smith suggested that the system tell a student if a "hold status" has been cleared, even before the

registration period begins.

Students are not permitted to register until they discuss their class selections with their advisor, who then removes the hold.

The change suggested by Smith would address complaints from some upperclassmen that they were unable to sign up for classes because their faculty advisors did not remove holds in time for registration.

Many of these students said they had already met with their advisors to discuss classes.

But as it stands now, there is no check in place to guarantee that advisors remove holds after meeting with students. Some students who thought their hold had been removed found out that it hadn't been only upon trying to register.

According to Assistant Dean of Academic Advising John Bader, the best thing students can do to ensure the hold is removed in a timely manner is to follow up with the advisor.

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## Experts address bioethics issues

BY ANITA BHANSALI  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Human Genome Research Institute at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and Dr. Ruth Faden, Director of the Phoebe R. Berman Bioethics Institute, participated in a panel discussion on the ethical issues

that arise from advances in biotechnology at the Milton S. Eisenhower Symposium on Nov. 25 in the Glass Pavilion.

The lecture, entitled "On the Edge: Evolving Biotechnology, A Question of Ethics," was the 14th symposium event this year. This year's symposium theme is "Changing Times: Who Are We? An Introspective Look at

American Identity in the 21st Century."

Collins began the discussion by professing the honor he felt at being invited to speak at the "distinguished" symposium program. He said that the chosen topic was in keeping with the thought-provoking nature of the series "because when it comes to areas that can be provocative, it's hard to beat genetics, biotechnology and cloning."

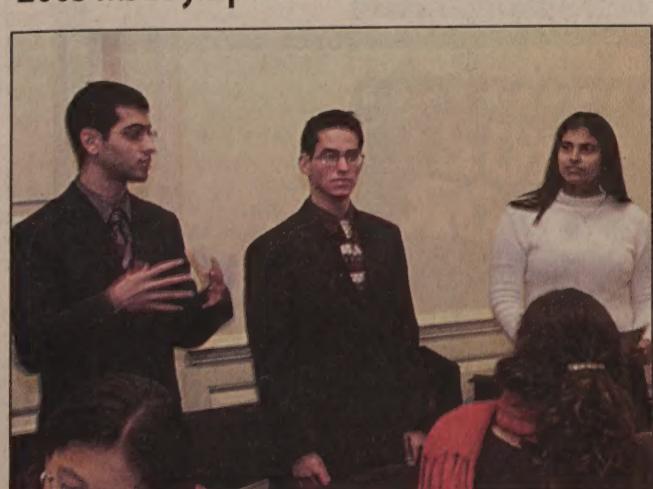
He spoke about the recurring ethical, legal and social issues, which he dubbed "ELSI," that should be considered in dealing with such technology. He added that there was great promise for revealing the causes of and cures for disease, as well as solving many of the mysteries of how we are all interrelated, through genetics.

"Many people would view this moment in science, where we are unraveling our own instruction book, as perhaps the most dramatic moment in all of history," said Collins. "One of the strongest ethical mandates we have, as a species, is ... to try to alleviate the suffering caused by disease."

He went on to discuss the progress of the Human Genome Project. He said that the milestones were laid out, the deliverables were defined, the timelines were outlined and the project was consistently ahead of schedule and below budget. Collins

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### 2003 MSE Symposium co-chairs selected



RAPHAEL SCHWEBER-KOREN/NEWS-LETTER  
Feroze Sidhwa, Michael Mondo and Payal Patel discuss plans for next year's MSE Symposium at this week's Student Council meeting.

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## JHU file-sharing closely monitored

BY JESSICA VALDEZ  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

terminated, said Savage.

"We have to comply with all of the laws to Internet providers since we don't want to put our Internet access into jeopardy," said Savage.

Freshman Brian Benson met with Savage after Time Warner notified the University of his alleged act of illegal file sharing. By visiting the Web site Kazaa, Time Warner found *The Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring* offered for download by Benson. Through the IP address, they determined the originator of the file.

"They sent the school an e-mail, and the school contacted me," Benson said. He then had to write a letter to the University promising to abandon illegal file sharing.

"This is not something to take lightly," said Blakeslee. Under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, each infraction can carry a fee if \$150,000 per incident. At another university, a staff member had to serve 33 months in prison for illegal file sharing, said Blakeslee.

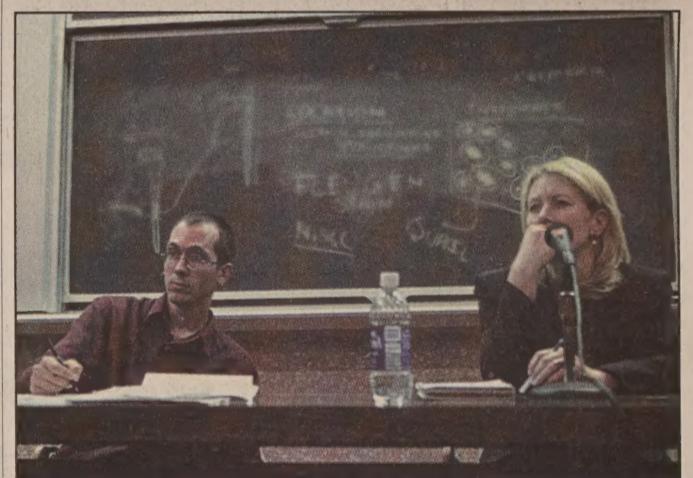
Watchdog organizations, such as Media Force, are contracted by media organizations to oversee investigations into copyright violations, said Deborah Savage.

President of Media Force Gary Millin said, "We really are a technology provider to enable copyright owners to protect their intellectual property."

Media Force detects copyright violations through advanced scanning

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## Sodexho's prison funding debated



DENISE TERRY/NEWS-LETTER  
**Head of the national "Not with our Money!" campaign Kevin Pranis and Sodexho representative Leslie Aun lead a student discussion concerning Sodexho's food quality and its funding of detention centers.**

BY JENNA O'STEEN  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

At least 55 Johns Hopkins students discussed the issue of Sodexho's involvement in detention centers at the Sodexho forum in Mudd Hall Auditorium on Thursday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m.

The forum included spokespeople Leslie Aun, the vice president of public relations for the Sodexho Corporation, and Kevin Pranis, head of the

national "Not with our Money!" campaign and speaking for grassroots leadership that opposed the use of "prisons for profit." They were moderated by Ralph Johnson, the Associate Dean of Student Life, and Richard Roldan, general manager for the Johns Hopkins branch of Sodexho.

Sodexho currently is involved in funding three detention centers in

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE



#### BOWLS: NOT JUST ON JAN. 1

It may not be Cotton, Fiesta or Sugar, but our Football team made it to the ECAC bowl game and won, defeating Frostburg State. Page A12

#### EIGHT SHABBY NIGHTS

If you thought *Punch Drunk Love* was Adam Sandler's permanent transition to serious action, you were horribly, horribly mistaken. He's done a holiday movie. Page B1

#### ASPHYXIATIN' CHICKEN

Does this remind you of a euphemism for something you do to relieve stress? You might want to learn some alternatives from our Stress Focus. Page B2

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# Deans detail plans at student meeting



VADIM GRETCHOUCHKIN/NEWS-LETTER

**Dean Conley, Freshman Vincent Chan and Sophomore Matt Woodbury share ice cream sundaes as they talk about student life.**

**BY ASHEESH LAROA**  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Tuesday, Dec. 3 marked the third and final "On the Road with the Deans" event this semester, a forum where students discuss academic and student life with key representatives of the Hopkins administration.

On Thursday, Nov. 21, Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell and Dean of Enrollment and Academic Services William T. Conley led the discussion on the topic of Charles Village.

Attendance peaked at 20 students.

On the topic of "town-gown relations," Boswell addressed concerns of student misconduct.

"The University has embraced its students by being more responsible

for student behavior," she said. "We've had a rockier time this fall with students being arrested for disorderly conduct."

Students raised concerns about the inability to park on campus.

"You get a parking license, which is a hunting license," said Conley on the issue.

Furthermore, the Glass Pavilion, the largest space on campus, is overly saturated with campus events.

On November's celebration of the Indian Festival of Lights, Diwali, Conley echoed student sentiment. "Gosh, there's so many people in here, it's great — [but] wouldn't it be nice to breathe?"

To add more space to campus, the administration is considering the elimination of the Charles Street divide.

To bring students closer to campus, administration renovated Wolman and McCoy, despite worries from the community that renters were being pushed out.

Plans are in the works to add a 10-story building across Charles Street from the main Homewood area, said Boswell.

"The first two floors are potentially slated to be retail," she said.

Baltimore zoning allows the building to reach 10 stories.

"The rest of the building will be residential space, housing for juniors and seniors," said Boswell.

"There's a real feeling we need to offer housing for graduate students and undergraduate students," she added.

The renovations have made the campus "beautiful and pristine," said Boswell, "but it doesn't seem to have any life."

Said Boswell, "We have this wonderful space in Levering Plaza.... One of the plans for the area is some kind of permanent structure that allows for parking."

Postering has been a topic of some controversy recently, with the Student Council increasing the space available but also increasing restrictions on the use of that space.

Students also examined the meal plan.

First, Boswell defined the current system as "a very traditional, almost antiquated, plan. We're in the process of totally overhauling those plans. What's needed is flexibility — quality food, that's a given — but the additional thing is flexibility."

Boswell also suggested that more à la carte dining options were in the works.

One student suggested that Hopkins consider running an independent food service.

Boswell warned, "The efficiencies you pick up with volume we can't provide doing it on our own," but the student offered a contact at Wheaton College, a small college in Illinois that had some success.

Boswell proceeded to dispel the common conception that Sodexho, a contractor in private prisons, was serving Hopkins students food of the same level.

"The way Sodexho structures food is, in the contract, you specify what you want at every meal. We need X protein options, X options of vegetables, of starches, and they actually design quality."

The Sodexho discussion panel that followed attracted some 40 students; the question came up there as well.

Finally, the topic of academics was examined.

Students expressed concern over the administration's consideration of offering all introductory courses on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

At Hopkins, departments have great autonomy over scheduling.

Said Conley, "There's a lot more discipline at other institutions that are not as decentralized."

Additionally, students seemed dissatisfied with the intersession offerings.

"The fact is, we have an intersession, and it seems ludicrous if we're not providing a supply curve that meets the demand," Conley said.

As if the student body had vented enough two weeks before, very few students came to this past Tuesday's event.

"We tried to make [the topic] as generic as possible so people would know they could come in and talk about anything," said Boswell. The topic was formally set to, "Taking a Pulse on Student Life."

The four people who attended did indeed feel free to discuss topics ranging from study abroad experiences to future plans.

Said Boswell, "This is the third, and this is the last one for this semester, and I guess we'll rethink what we do for next semester."

# Int. students' visa approvals delayed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

applicant, such as a student, must provide proof of a permanent residence abroad to which he or she plans to return after studying in the United States. According to Arrindell, this "proof of compelling ties abroad" is a vital component to an international student's visa application.

If the student was unable to satisfy the [consulate] with regard to his or her intent to return home, it would be a big factor for the release of [his or her] visa," said Arrindell.

Proofs of such compelling ties could be a job, house, family or bank account in the applicant's home country, according to a U.S. Bureau of Consular Affairs brochure. The brochure also asserts that each case is looked at individually by a consular officer. The consular officer might hold an interview with the applicant, during which the applicant would answer questions regarding his or her plans in the United States.

According to Arrindell, it is possible for an applicant to "say too much" during such an interview.

"If they say they [plan to] work in the U.S., they won't make it," said Arrindell. The U.S. Consulate also must determine that the student can pay tuition and "won't become a financial burden to the tax-paying citizens of the United States," according to Arrindell.

Section 101 of the INA defines a valid applicant as "an alien having a residence in a foreign country which he has no intention of abandoning, who is a bona fide student qualified to pursue a full course of study and who seeks to enter the United States tem-

porarily and solely for the purpose of pursuing such a course of study."

The Nonimmigrant Visa Application form requires applicants to specify in writing the purpose and duration of their stay, as well as the address of their temporary U.S. residence and the source of their traveling funds. Applicants must also indicate whether or not they have previously been denied a visa, been convicted of a crime, withheld custody of a U.S. citizen child outside the United States, or taken part in genocide.

Patt indicated that reviews of student visas are proceeding more quickly since the summer, and that most take "a couple of weeks." According to Arrindell, students from "affected countries," namely students from the Middle East or Islamic nations, rarely achieve approval within that timeframe.

Arrindell said the "pitifully slow" process is a concern for the OISSS, and added the only response yet received has been the application is "still pending."

Despite his concerns, Arrindell said thorough security screening might help ensure that approval is granted to the applicants who have legitimate and genuine intentions in the United States — "individuals who really want the opportunity to come."

"Whatever the timeline takes, that's fine," said Arrindell. "Given our recent history with international students and scholars, they have become an integral part of the American educational process... anything that circumvents [their coming here] would be a disservice to that process."

## ERRATA

There were no reported errors in the Nov. 21, 2002 issue of *The Johns Hopkins News-Letter*.

# Web site hinders registration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

through e-mail.

Bader also stressed that holds on registration were not the major issue for freshmen who experienced problems when trying to register.

"For freshmen, the problem was not the hold," he said. "In fact, only four or five students [of the freshman class] did not have their holds

removed before registration began."

Bader insisted that students should meet with their advisors weeks before registration period begins.

"One of the first things I did when I came here was to extend the advising period so that students could meet with advisors up to five weeks before registering," he said.

Aside from the benefit of mak-

ing sure a "hold status" is cleared, he says that meeting with an advisor gives a student the chance to develop a relationship with his or her advisor.

"It's a relationship, and if students work better with faculty members and make the effort to see the person in advance, things will flow better," said Bader.

## JHU BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION 2003

The 2003 competition is open to full-time undergraduates of the Whiting School of Engineering and the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences. Executive summaries are due on Thursday, January 30, 2003. Students will be able to work with mentors. Final business plans will be due on Wednesday, March 19, 2003. Teams or individuals interested in entering the competition should pick up an information package in 106 Whitehead Hall or visit [www.mts.jhu.edu](http://www.mts.jhu.edu).



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# Ethics of human cloning discussed



**Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Human Genome Research Institute, discussed ethical and legal issues surrounding biotechnology.**

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stated that, as a physician, he rarely prescribed a perfect solution, and instead had to offer imperfect or even no medical care, a situation he found "terribly frustrating." He said that genomics offered the opportunity for highly-individualized medicine that could be more effective and less toxic, so that side-effects would be minimized. According to Collins, genomics could fill in the gaps in our knowledge of the molecular-level mechanisms that exist in current medical technique.

Collins described the damage that research in biotechnology could do in light of future accessibility to genetic testing.

"There are real challenges that we have to face head-on," said Collins.

The first three challenges outlined were potential dangers in the medical arena: genetic discrimination by insurance companies, university scholarships and employers; overseeing the validity of these tests before they are

offered to the public; and making access to these tests equitable to all citizens, especially in light of the current disparity in health care.

"When you consider that our country, of all the civilized countries in the world, seems comfortable with a situation where 32 million of our citizens do not have health insurance, it is not encouraging to think that, when it comes to genetics, we will suddenly feel some urge to ensure that everybody has access [to those resources]," said Collins.

The second three challenges were concerns outside the medical arena: the relationship between genetics and race, and using science to draw lines between people; the boundaries of the uses of genetics and the potential to go beyond medical treatment to enhance characteristics, as in the case of "designer babies"; and genetics altering our perceptions of ourselves, and possibly discouraging pursuit of education, spirituality or other areas of thought.

"Science has a lot to tell us about

the natural aspects of humanity and human biology," said Collins. "I think it has relatively little to tell us about who we are as spiritual creatures. The pursuit of science should not be taken as an indication that we are nothing more than a few chemicals organized together in a certain plan. Science is the way to study the natural aspects of humanity; faith, religion, theology, philosophy are the ways the study the parts of us that are not [determined] by DNA, RNA and protein. Those [parts of us] are not going to go away."

In her opening comments, Faden expressed the privilege she felt in being invited to the symposium and sharing the stage with Collins. She began the discussion with the caveat that she was not a scientist, and would try to use "ordinary language" in describing the scientific terminology used in this field. Faden provided a few key definitions and descriptions of stem cells, which she said were important in understanding where the "politically charged environment" surrounding stem cells comes from.

She explained that human stem-cell research has only been undertaken recently, starting in 1998. Stem cells are cells capable of differentiating into any other cell type in the body. This would potentially be useful in curing disease through cell regeneration, some prime examples being spinal cord damage, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. In the short-term, the equivalent of a stem-cell graft or transplant could be developed, which Faden termed "regenerative medicine." In the long-term, humans could, theoretically, reprogram their cells to provide individualized therapies at the cellular, rather than the genomic, level.

Faden explained that there are two types of stem cells: embryonic and adult stem-cells. The critical inner cell mass of embryonic stem cells can only be gathered by killing the embryo, a fact which is the source of controversy. She stated that the possibility of gathering stem cells from adults is being looked into.

Faden spoke about the current leg-

islation regarding this research. In August of 2001, President Bush's prime-time televised address was the first time an American president had spoken to the nation on an issue of ethics in science. After giving a basic run-down of the science and issues involved, Bush stated that, at the time of his address, there was a set number of registered stem cell lines. He would allow Federal money to be used for research on these existing lines, because the embryos used to gather these lines were already dead and so no moral compromise was involved. However, he refused to use that money for lines created in the future because embryos would have to be destroyed, and he would not support that.

Faden presented a list of moral hurdles and perspectives that we must face in advancement of stem-cell research and technology. If an individual considers the first instant of biological life as the same moral entity as any other human being, then he or she would view harvesting embryonic stem cells as equivalent to murder, explained Faden.

On the other hand, there are those who consider the embryo a different kind of life, and they bring up questions about the viability, location and purpose of the embryo. These individuals might view an embryo without the potential to develop fully as a different moral entity.

Proponents of yet another school of thought do not object to the destruction of embryos for what is perceived to be the greater purpose of medical advances, but do fear the possibility of cloning.

Faden indicated that such individuals fear "the prospect that is 'Gattaca-like': that we will one day effectively manufacture our children ... that in perfecting the techniques of cloning, we will stop having the old-fashioned way, [eliminating] the element of chance that operates in the [formation] of the relationship between parent and child ..."

Finally, Faden offered the feminist argument for consideration, that there is the potential for abusing the situation of poor women in creating stem cell lines. She said that such women can be bribed into selling their eggs, and the harvesting process is painful for the women on many levels.

# SAC GA discusses funding policies

**BY JULIANNA FINELLI**

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

decided at the SAC Executive Board's discretion.

According to Roecker, 14 student groups have either had their constitutions approved, their abstracts approved or have been reactivated from a previously defunct status in the past semester.

This large number will create additional pressure on the SAC's budget.

"It's great in terms of student groups," said Roecker, "but it definitely puts a strain on our budget."

Roecker indicated that the changes in funding policies were also intended to "make sure all groups have equitable treatment."

The changes in funding policies for speakers were made in response to an increased number of groups bringing speakers to campus, according to Roecker. The SAC "decided to clarify" funding possibilities for such events.

According to Roecker, the SAC saw a \$20,000 increase in its total allocation this year. She said this raw number is "a little deceptive," however, since \$12,000 was allocated to the Hopkins Organization for Programming (HOP) in order to improve social programming on campus.

"We want to see more groups ... [it shows] an active campus life," said Roecker. "But we do have a finite amount of money."

At the end of the meeting, Roecker reminded student group leaders that guest lecturers are defined as individuals who provide an educational program; comedians, musicians and other entertainers fall under a different policy.

Also discussed at the meeting were changes in funding for Movie Nights.

Roecker then informed group leaders that movies shown to public audiences must be shown in accordance with copyright law and University policy, regardless of whether or not the group charges an entry fee.

According to Roecker, the SAC will not fund any copyright-related fees.

Another change implemented related to printing special posters, handouts and programs.

Roecker explained that the SAC

will only fund 100 posters at \$0.05 per poster, 3,200 mailbox stuffers at \$0.05 per copy, and four-paged programs at \$0.20 per program, with the total number of programs to be

## Crew members row to raise funds



**Crew member junior Jamie Planck does her leg of the relay at the Johns Hopkins crew teams' all-day ergathon as her teammate freshman Nino Torres and relay partner senior Sharon Betz cheer her on. The funds raised helped to defray the cost for the team's spring training.**

## Sodexho details prison contracts

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1**  
world: Forest Bank in the United Kingdom, Harmondsworth in London and Acacia in Australia. Aun said that they provide food, religion, medical services, counseling and security for these facilities.

Pranis's opening statement emphasized the major problems of the "privatization of prisons."

He said it is wrong for the government to give Sodexho power over punishment policies. He gave a description of the physical details of Harmondsworth detention center, which houses 600 refugees, including children. He said the "prison" is a "sterile, ugly building" surrounded by "barbed-wire fencing." He also emphasized that the funding provided by Sodexho allows the country's government to spend more on prisons and the imprisonment of people even if imprisonment is not the appropriate punishment.

Aun rebutted that before Sodexho provided funding, these refugees were placed in full-scale prisons with hardcore criminals. Sodexho, said Aun, is "proud of what they are doing" and has "gotten lots of praise in their actions in human rights and the area of

corrections."

Aun said, "[We] only provide services to three, soon to be four, detention centers. [These bring in] less than one percent of our revenue. ... [We]

**CONTINUED ON PAGE A4**

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Pan-fried noodles and vegetables mixed with Japanese sauce	
<b>BIBIM BAP</b> .....	\$5.95
Various Korean vegetables, beef and fried egg over rice served with hot chili paste	
<b>CHAP CHAE BAP</b> .....	\$5.95
Transparent vermicelli sautéed with vegetables and beef in special sauce serve with rice	
<b>SUSHI REGULAR</b> .....	\$7.95
4 pieces of sushi and 1 tuna roll	
<b>SUSHI DELUXE</b> .....	\$8.95
6 pieces of sushi and 1 tuna roll	
<b>SUSHI &amp; SASHIMI COMBO</b> .....	\$8.95
3 pieces of sushi and 6 pieces of sashimi	
<b>ROLL COMBO</b> .....	\$6.95
Any combination of TWO from California, Tuna, Cucumber Roll.	
<b>VEGETARIAN ROLL COMBO</b> .....	\$6.95
Any combination of TWO from cucumber, avocado, vegetable salad roll	

**\*\*\*Underlined Selections Can Be Changed To Vegetarian\*\*\***

# StuCo approves new MSE chairs



Hong Kong Students Association Vice President Alfred Yu (left) and President Avery Choi presented changes to the group's constitution.

BY KARINA SCHUMACHER-VILLASANTE

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

At this week's Student Council (StuCo) meeting, StuCo members heard proposals from two student groups and approved the appointments of next year's Milton S. Eisenhower (MSE) Symposium chairs.

The first group to present themselves was the JHU Hong Kong Students Association (HKSA). They wanted to receive approval for the recent changes made to their constitution.

Avery Choi, president of HKSA, and Alfred Yu, vice-president of HKSA, stated that the changes had already been ratified by the Student Activities Commission (SAC).

Amongst the many changes made to their constitution was the decision to change the names and definitions of particular positions and to discontinue the publishing of their newsletter. The changes were approved by StuCo.

The three candidates for executive co-chairs of the MSE Symposium then fielded questions from StuCo mem-

bers and presented their proposed schedule for next year's speaker series. Michael Mondo, Payal Patel and Feroze Sidhwā were the three students selected by the Committee on Leadership Appointments (COLA) to the chairperson positions.

They have decided next year's theme to be "The Great American Experiment: A Juxtaposition of Capitalism and Democracy."

Sidhwā stated that since childhood, Americans have been taught that capitalism and democracy are "two pillars ... that combined create a perfect society." The symposium, he continued, will try to focus on the idea of the union of capitalism and democracy, answering questions such as whether or not they are helping society.

Mondo conveyed three possible events the co-chairs have in mind, for example one on health care.

When questioned by Charles Reyner, representative of the sophomore class, about their ambition, Sidhwā stated that the co-chairs are not worried.

## Sodexho discussed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A3

questions and opinions about campus food.

Students were assured that it was only an "urban legend" that Sodexho has a food quality index that ranks Hopkins at the bottom. Roldan assured the audience that "all meats are USDA inspected and [we] buy from Starbucks, Kellogg's and Kraft."

Also, he said that every dining location has a culinary school certified chef and that all cooks go through a campus culinary certificate program and a safety certification program.

One student raised the question that Sodexho "monopolizes campuses and eliminates competition," so "how are students supposed to be satisfied with the meal plan?"

Roldan said that it is "University members that make policies, not

Sodexho." He also wished to say that changes have been and are being made now.

Roland said, "It is hard to make good dishes that everyone enjoys. Through feedback, we are working through problems, [but] we aren't going to hit it 100 percent of the time."

Roland said he was seeing "a lot more of positive than negative right now." But if students have specific advice to improve the dining, they can e-mail [rrolan@hd.jhu.edu](mailto:rrolan@hd.jhu.edu).

Aun advised, "The food sucks' isn't a terribly helpful comment." She said that if a student wants a change made they need to provide more details than that. More information about Johns Hopkins Dining can also be found at the Web site <http://www.jhudining.com>.

## Howard Hughes Summer Research Fellowship Program

The 2003 Howard Hughes Summer Research Fellowship Program at Johns Hopkins University will award approximately thirty undergraduates in the School of Arts & Sciences and the School of Engineering with \$3,000 stipends. Fellows will conduct laboratory research for ten weeks during the summer with a Hopkins faculty member of their choice. There will also be opportunities to participate in seminars and social activities. The program will run from June 2nd through August 8th, 2003.

Each student should submit a completed application and supporting materials (letter of support from lab sponsor, letter of recommendation from a faculty member, transcript, statement of purpose and proposal) to Ami Cox in 237 Mergenthaler Hall by February 14, 2003 (4:00PM).

Additional information and applications are available in the Office of the Dean, 237 Mergenthaler Hall, and at <http://www.jhu.edu/~as1/HowardHughesHopkinsInfo.html>.

Questions? E-mail [ami@jhu.edu](mailto:ami@jhu.edu).

"We think it's doable," said Sidhwā.

He also expressed his desire to have more debates as a way to let people see more political sides than they would usually see were there just a single speaker.

Ravi Kavasery, senior class president, inquired about how the three co-chairs planned to make sure that the speakers and their presentations would coincide with the given theme.

Patel stated that they are trying to make it more of a political symposium, only inviting speakers who are associated with the political spectrum.

Kavasery continued to question the co-chairs, inquiring about fund-raising and how the three students planned to pay for the speakers. Patel stated that they plan to look towards the History and Political Science Departments for support.

In the past, the departments have had no part in the MSE Symposium. Now, the co-chairs want to include the two departments and get their advice and their financial help.

Mondo further answered the question by stating that they plan on starting the fund-raising process earlier than they had the previous year.

Roecker, StuCo treasurer, asked the co-chairs if they felt "personally prepared" to take on the load of the MSE Symposium. Patel affirmed that "[they] learned a lot this year about fund-raising... [and] raised \$75,000."

"I think we can do it again next year," said Patel.

All three were on staff last year and feel that their experience will help them take on the challenge.

StuCo approved Patel, Mondo and Sidhwā as the new co-chairs for the MSE Symposium.

The last visiting group was the Men's Volleyball club. They, like HKSA, were approved by the SAC before the StuCo meeting. The team is compiled of 10 students, mainly freshmen and sophomores. They have a volunteering coach, and stated that "there are a lot of people here want to play volleyball... who played in high school and want to get back into the competitive atmosphere."

Without much delay, the StuCo approved the group.

Before the closing of the meeting, DeSantos presented the changes in the constitution of the Programming Research Committee. The final decision about the changes will be decided at the next meeting.

### STUDENT COUNCIL ATTENDANCE, DECEMBER 3, 2002

#### Executive Officers

President Manish Gala	516-2573	Present
VP Institutional Relations Noel DeSantos	516-2759	Present
VP Administration Priti Dali	467-8692	Present
Secretary Jackie Chan	366-2665	Present
Treasurer Elise Roecker	662-4628	Present

#### Class of 2003

President Ravi Kavasery	662-4982	Present
Vice President Sarah Cummings	889-4948	Present
Secretary/Treasurer Tara Feehan		Present
Representative Chris Cunico	243-5987	Absent
Representative Catie Pittaway	662-7815	Present
Representative Omer Taviloglu		Present

#### Class of 2004

President Simone Chen	662-8240	Present
Vice President Lindsay Allen	443-622-5546	Absent
Secretary/Treasurer Aaron Ong	499-3714	Present
Representative Patience Boudreux	375-7598	Absent
Representative David Crandall	728-8054	Present
Representative Anuja Vora	443-418-7138	Present

#### Class of 2005

President Ben Radel	516-6375	Present
Vice President Megan Coe	516-3716	Present
Secretary/Treasurer Shannon Chang	691-0159	Present
Representative Monica Lai	516-3700	Present
Representative Charles Reyner	516-3756	Present
Representative Manu Sharma	435-4788	Present

#### Class of 2006

President Christal Ng	516-5709	Absent
Vice President Hallie Jackson	516-5624	Present
Secretary/Treasurer Nina Kumar	516-5646	Present
Representative Rob Freundlich	516-5733	Present
Representative Aaron Levy-Forsythe	516-5683	Present
Representative Meghan McIntosh	516-5723	Present

## Brody among highest-paid college presidents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

compensation packages that make the job worthwhile: the University of Texas ranges around \$787,319 with the University of Tennessee as a close second at \$734,000.

The 62 members of the Board of Trustees are in charge of determining Brody's wages — a Compensation Committee of about seven people, headed by a chairman, decide the salary for the general Board to approve.

"Brody thinks he has the best University and job here at Hopkins," says

Schnyderman.

Hopkins is the largest employer in Baltimore and second largest in Maryland.

Professor Laurence Ball says, "Well I wish my salary was just as high. I feel it is fairly justified because he is responsible for the hospital and healthcare — and when you look at the number of employees, etc... it's a big operation."

Brody is in charge of the hospital and the entire healthcare system of Hopkins along with its eight schools.

**Write for news**  
email news@jhunewsletter.com

You'll be glad you did.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Unarmed suspect robs non-affiliate at 30th and Calvert

An unarmed robbery occurred at the intersection of 100 E. 30th Street and Calvert Street on Nov. 24 at 6:10 p.m.

The first suspect, a five-foot-eight-inch male, aged 14 to 16, approached the 44-year-old unaffiliated male victim, who was walking west on 30th Street. The suspect was described as wearing a Dallas Cowboys sweatshirt.

The suspect asked the victim for the time. The victim then noticed two other males, both approximately 14 to 16 years of age, wearing gray-hooded sweatshirts. The two males began approaching as the first suspect grabbed the victim and threw him against a wall. The suspect then demanded money.

According to the victim, he was able to calm down the suspect and gave him \$35, convincing the suspect that was all the money he had. After taking the cash, the suspect, along with the two suspects who approached, ran east on 30th Street,

where they were lost from sight.

The latter two suspects took no active part in the robbery. Multiple police officers called to the scene combed the surrounding areas but to no avail.

— By Kathy Chen

### Chao statue unveiled in private ceremony

A private statue dedication ceremony was held on Nov. 23 by the family of the late Rex Chao, a Hopkins undergraduate who was shot and killed by a fellow student in 1996.

The bronze statue, which is entitled "Spirit of Music," was unveiled at its current location on the south side of the Martin Center. The statue depicts a young man with his violin, honoring the musical achievements of Chao, who played in the Hopkins Symphony Orchestra.

Former girlfriend Suzanne Hubbard and friend Amy Clair Brusich formed a committee to raise over \$70,000 for the statue's creation.

— By Julianna Finelli

## Illegal downloads closely monitored

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

technology that examines different networks, said Millin.

But according to Savage, illegal MP3 and MP4 downloads are rarely detected unless posted on a server.

"They're not looking into the computer system; they don't have to," said Savage. "If you have a server, and it's open then it's like having a sign outside your front door."

Servers increase the visible traffic and heighten the probability of being

caught, she added.

"There's probably more giveaways and certainty if people are sharing the files," said Savage. "You can easily see the traffic."

But Blakeslee indicated that the problem is not as pressing at Hopkins as at other institutions.

"Some colleges around the country have reported much greater increases," he said, crediting this to the academic rigor at Hopkins, which leaves students with little free time.

### Monday, November 18

6:25 a.m. – A suspect forced entry into a public housing facility on the 2800 block of Hampden Avenue and stole property.

## NEWS

## AROUND THE COUNTRY

# Al-Qaida involved in Kenya attacks

## Spain copes with oil spill on coast

BY DANIEL WOOLLS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MUXIA, Spain (AP) — Walking in the muck of an oil-stained beach, King Juan Carlos was received respectfully Monday by fishermen whose livelihoods are imperiled by the massive spill from a tanker that sank off Spain's northwest coast.

"We're very grateful that he came to see the problem firsthand," said Daniel Castro, 46, a skipper. "He went down and got his feet dirty. The only way to resolve a problem is to be in the middle of it."

Arriving by helicopter, the king met with residents and the local fishermen's association. He cast an occasional glance at the sticky soles of his shoes.

"We know that the king can only bring us his solidarity, not a solution," said Javier Sar, head of the fishermen's association.

"We were the last to realize how serious this was," Sar continued. "We were blinded by optimism... With every day that goes by, people are more pessimistic."

On a chilly, overcast morning, volunteers and armed forces personnel resumed cleaning Galicia's shoreline while readying more barriers to fend off the floating masses of oil. Specially-equipped ships from several European countries kept suctioning the slicks, the main one about 19 nautical miles (22 statute miles, 35 kilometers) offshore.

The oil leaked from the Bahamas-flagged Prestige from Nov. 13, when its hull ruptured in a storm, through Nov. 19, when it broke in half and sank. An estimated 20,000 tons (5.3



A team of volunteers works on an oil stained beach in Muxia, northwestern Spain, Monday, Dec. 2, 2002. Fuel oil continues to wash ashore after the stricken Bahamas flagged tanker Prestige sank Nov. 19, 150 miles off Cabo Finisterre (Cape Land's End) while carrying almost 20 million gallons of fuel oil.

million gallons or 20 million liters) spilled. The rest, about 57,000 tons, sank with the Prestige.

First results of a small French research submarine that descended into the Atlantic on Monday to inspect the sunken tanker Prestige for leakage, confirmed that no traces of fuel were coming out of its cargo tanks, the government said in a statement.

It added that the submarine and

its three-person crew had found the fore of the ship in its first diving.

Spain hired the Nautilus, best known for finding the remains of the Titanic, to try to determine if the ship's fuel oil cargo has solidified, as some experts have predicted.

The 8 meter-long (26-foot) vessel is expected to make dives lasting five hours each during a week.

Reconnaissance planes from France and Portugal had spotted what

appears to be new oil slicks from over the Prestige's grave, 3,600 meters (2.2 miles) below the ocean's surface.

An estimated 8,000 tons (2 million gallons or 7.5 million liters) has been recovered at sea or from land, the latter by back-straining labor of hundreds of young men and women including university students bused from across Spain, working with shovels, rakes and pails.

An estimated 15,000 birds have perished or been injured by the oil, according to Enrique Diaz of the environmental group SEO BirdLife.

The spill contaminated 164 beaches, the government stated Monday, approximately from A Coruna, a major port city, south to Cape Finisterre, off the coast of which the Prestige cracked its hull. Towed out to sea, it sank 245 kilometers (152 miles) southwest of the cape.

The government banned fishing and shellfish harvesting — the main economic activity in Galicia — for several hundred kilometers.

It's hard to predict when — or where — more oil will reach land because wind and currents "are fragmenting the big slick into smaller ones," Bert Backus of the Dutch oil-cleaning ship RijnDelta said in a telephone interview from A Coruna, where his ship was unloading tons of oil it collected at sea during the weekend.

The government of Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar has tended to downplay what Galicians and opposition political parties call a catastrophe. Top officials at first insisted on lower estimates of the amount of oil spilled.

Aznar still has not visited the stricken shoreline, a fact not lost on the estimated 150,000 Galicians who took part in a protest demonstration in Santiago de Compostela on Sunday.

Fuel oil is practically the dregs of petroleum refining, barely above asphalt.

# Airline workers seek pay increase

BY DAVE CARPENTER  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO (AP) — United Airlines mechanics agreed Monday to hold another vote on \$700 million in wage-and-benefit concessions the airline says it needs to stave off bankruptcy.

The mechanics will vote Thursday on the same proposed pay cuts of 6 percent to 7 percent they rejected last week.

The terms of benefit concessions were revised slightly in hopes of winning approval.

Union leaders have urged the rank and file to ratify the concessions, which failed last week 57 percent to 43 percent.

United, which is losing millions of dollars daily, is trying to slash labor costs by \$5.2 billion over 51/2 years to win approval of a \$1.8 billion federal loan guarantee.

The guarantee is considered key to avoiding bankruptcy.

The mechanics' vote is key.

Wage concessions already agreed upon by United's pilots, flight attendants and other employees expire Dec. 31 unless all groups sign on.

United has pledged to keep flying if it files for bankruptcy, but its stock would probably be worthless and it would lose control of its finances.

The nation's No. 2 airline is 55 percent owned by its employees.

The Machinists' union, which represents the airline's more than 13,000 mechanics and other employees, said the new concessions package addresses concerns over vacation days, working locations and schedules.

The agreement to hold another ratification vote bought United time to decide whether to make a \$375 million debt payment that would deplete its cash.

The payment was due Monday, but the board of directors was expected to put it off under a grace period that expires Dec. 16.

United parent UAL Corp. climbed 77 cents, or 31 percent, to \$3.28 in afternoon trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

"United still faces a difficult task in avoiding bankruptcy, but the second mechanics' vote provides the airline with a glimmer of hope," Standard & Poor's analyst Philip Baggaley said in a research note.

Major airlines have been suffering heavy losses because of the weak economy and the downturn in travel after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The federal government set up a loan program to rescue the industry.

# Supreme Ct. to rule on race-based admission

BY GINA HOLLAND  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court agreed Monday to decide if minorities can be given a boost to get into universities, a subject still heatedly contested a quarter-century after the justices first addressed affirmative action in college admissions.

The court will tell universities how much weight, if any, they may assign to an applicant's race. At stake are race-conscious admissions policies at many public and private colleges, law schools and medical schools.

The only time the Supreme Court considered a college race case, the justices issued a split 1978 ruling that banned racial quotas but gave states little other direction.

Both sides of the affirmative action debate wanted the court to try again.

Justices will consider whether some white applicants to the University of Michigan and its law school were rejected unconstitutionally because of their race, under the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection for all under the law.

Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman said the outcome "will have a profound impact on our nation's higher education system and on our race relations broadly... Now is not the time to turn back the clock."

"The color of your skin determines so many important things about your life experience — where you live, where you go to work and with whom

you work. Race still matters in our society. The ideal of colorblindness does not mean we can or should be blind to that reality," she said.

Opponents contend that race-conscious policies hurt white college applicants by giving slots to less-qualified minority prospects.

"They're also unfair to minorities who are stigmatized and held to a demeaning lower standard," said Curt Levey, a lawyer with the Washington-based Center for Individual Rights, which is representing white students in the challenge.

Levey said black enrollment initially fell when race considerations were abandoned in public colleges in California, Florida, Texas and Washington state. But he said the numbers are increasing, proof that race does not have to be a factor in admissions in the rest of the country.

The Supreme Court announced separately Monday that it would resurrect another controversial issue: whether states can punish homosexuals for having sex. The court ruled in 1986 that consenting adults have no constitutional right to private homosexual sex. Justices will reconsider that in an appeal filed by two men prosecuted under a Texas law that makes it a crime to engage in same-sex intercourse.

The court will hear arguments in the cases next year, and its decisions will be made public before July, just as some justices may be contemplating announcing retirements in order to assess their mental state. A score of

## Researchers find that sperm keeps women in a good mood

BY JENNIFER ROGERS  
THE DAILY AZTEC (SAN DIEGO STATE U.)

(U-WIRE) SAN DIEGO — Sperm may be the key to keeping women satisfied — in more ways than one.

A recent study indicates that sex may not only be sexually stimulating for women, but sperm may also be responsible for keeping women in a good mood.

Nearly 300 undergraduate females were recruited by Gordon Gallup, a psychology professor at State University of New York at Albany, to participate in a study on the effect of sperm on a woman's mood. The women answered survey questions about their sex lives, including questions on the amount of sex they have and how long it has been since their last sexual encounter.

Gallup also administered a Beck Depression Inventory test, a standard questionnaire used by many researchers, to the women in order to assess their mood. The Beck Depression Inventory is a relatively short survey of one's behaviors in order to assess their mental state. A score of

17 is considered moderately depressed.

Gallup's results from the study proved to be interesting. The women who did not use condoms were significantly happier than those abstaining from sex or using condoms. The results also indicated that the women who were having regular unprotected sex felt worse the longer it had been since they stopped having sex. The same was not true for those women who regularly wore condoms.

Since completing the initial study, Gallup has replicated it on a larger scale, using 700 women.

The results for the second study also indicated that semen could have a positive effect on a woman's mood. Gallup attributes the mood enhancement to various hormones found in ejaculate.

Dr. Winifred Cutler, best known for her discovery of pheromones in 1986, told *Salon.com* in a July 2002 online interview that the good mood felt by women in a sexual relationship has to do more with intimacy rather than bare lovemaking.

Contrary to Cutler's belief, Gallup maintains that intimacy did not confound the results of his experiment. Still, Gallup is the first to say that his results are not set in stone.

"Simply having sex cannot account for their relative happiness," Gallup told Reuters Health in an online article published in November 2001.

## COLLEGE BRIEFS

tain that his results cannot be conclusive because there are too many "confounding variables." In other words, there are too many other elements that could contribute to a woman's happiness besides regular exposure to semen via unprotected sex.

Many female students at San Diego State University say women are more likely to be in a good mood because of a close, intimate relationship rather than from the sperm itself.

"I think intimacy in a relationship would make a girl happier than exposure to a guy's semen," undeclared freshman Allison Poirier said.

The government of Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar has tended to downplay what Galicians and opposition political parties call a catastrophe. Top officials at first insisted on lower estimates of the amount of oil spilled.

Aznar still has not visited the stricken shoreline, a fact not lost on the estimated 150,000 Galicians who took part in a protest demonstration in Santiago de Compostela on Sunday.

Fuel oil is practically the dregs of petroleum refining, barely above asphalt.

College students charged with assault

BY STEPHANIE STEWARD  
DAILY PENNSYLVANIAN (U. PENNSYLVANIA)

(U-WIRE) PHILADELPHIA — Five University of Pennsylvania students have been arrested and charged with aggravated assault in connection with an incident on campus earlier this month involving a Princeton University student.

Penn Police, however, say they will not release the names of the students — all of whom are believed to have been drinking at the time of the incident — until they have been arraigned.

"We have completed a full criminal investigation, and five Penn students have been arrested and charged with the assault," Vice President for Public Safety Maureen Rush said. "The bottom line is that they will be charged in criminal court."

The students' charges include aggravated assault, simple assault, reckless endangerment of another person's life, terrorist threats, conspiracy to commit a crime and possession of an instrument of crime.

Additionally, the Office of Student Conduct is conducting a parallel investigation into the incident and is expected to hand down its own decision on the students.

"They will suggest University sanctions for the students," Police Chief Tom Rambo said.

Rush said she is disappointed about the incident.

"It is very unfortunate that Princeton University students who were here on a very legitimate, academic activity were the victims of the assault," Rush said. "I am saddened by the results of what happened. They will stand trial as anyone else would in an assault case."

According to police, the assault was set off by an altercation between the Princeton students, who were staying on campus for a weekend parliamentary debate, and the Penn students, who were not associated with the University's debate team.

# THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

**EDITORIAL**

## **Big Brother is watching**

A Johns Hopkins student was recently caught sharing an illegal copy of *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* via the file-sharing service Kazaa. An agency representing Warner Brothers searched for copies of the film on Kazaa and successfully downloaded a copy from the student.

After verifying that the student was in violation of Warner Brothers' copyright, the agency contacted Hopkins, informing the University that a computer on its network was involved in an act of piracy. The agency also told Hopkins it is responsible for remedying the problem.

In the past, agencies representing movie studios and record labels have generally pursued legal action against individuals and organizations hosting large servers of pirated material. Users who merely connected to the server to download material were generally overlooked and ignored.

Things have changed. With recent lawsuits against producers of file-sharing software failing to prevent widespread piracy, copyright holders have shifted their tactics. Now, many prefer pursuing legal action against individuals who download and share copyrighted material, with hopes of intimidating other users.

Associate General Counsel Wesley Blakeslee said the University currently receives three to four notifications of copyright violations per week. These numbers are twice those of last year.

A September e-mail from the University's General Counsel warned of this trend, saying, "More copyright owners have been demanding identification of the students so court actions

can be brought against them." If presented with such a request, Hopkins will hand over the name of the individuals in question.

While Blakeslee said that he knows of no Hopkins students that have yet been sued, students at other schools have incurred fines of up to \$150,000 per song or movie, according to the e-mail.

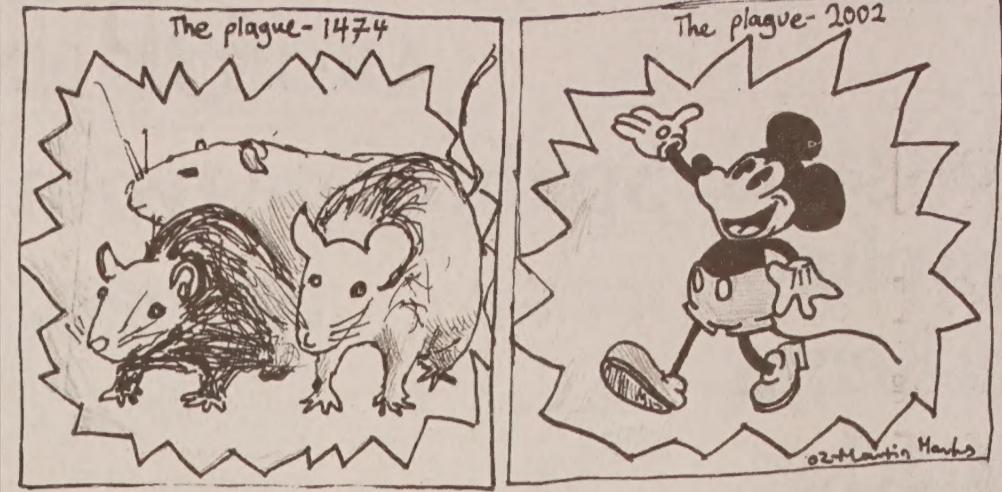
In this particular case, the agency simply informed Hopkins of the violation, rather than pursuing legal action. The student was notified and asked to write a letter promising to remove the Kazaa software from his computer.

Unfortunately, not everyone will be this lucky. Students must acknowledge the fact that industry officials are actively looking for those sharing pirated copies of movies and songs, and that universities will do nothing to protect their identities. Given a choice between handing over a student and being sued itself, Hopkins will not think twice about what to do. Students would be well-advised to take this into consideration when using file-sharing programs such as Kazaa.

Whatever students think about the legitimacy of electronic copyright laws, they must remember that they are committing illegal acts when downloading or distributing music and movies. And right now, someone is watching.

"If you download music or movies or other copyrighted material you will be caught!" warned the e-mail from General Counsel.

They may well be right. And those who are caught remain at the mercy of the copyright owner, who will not always be easy to appease.



CARTOON BY MARTIN MARKS

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR****Multiculturalism is welcome at Hopkins**

Given recent news like last week's opinion article about Israel, I would like to say kudos to all of those groups who promote cultural, racial and religious awareness with events such as CultureFest, or open celebrations such as Diwali. I would especially like to thank the Jewish, Catholic and Muslim Student Associations, who have been planning an increased number of co-sponsored social events that are always advertised and open to all students.

From "What is Ramadan" dinner, to JSA/JHMA bowling night, to football between the JSA and CSA and plenty of joint meals, these groups have worked hard seeking to foster understanding and appreciation by forming a closer community. These are events whose goal is not so much to educate, but to befriend and enjoy each other's company.

Although diverse cultures get along relatively well here at Hopkins, there is always room for greater understanding. These Hopkins groups are trying their best to create lasting peace in an active, but non-aggressive manner; they are steps in the right direction.

They ask us to lay aside our differences and share in a suhoor, or they ask us to come celebrate a festival of lights — offering, in the end, a good time.

Without realizing it, they invite, rather than demand, us to change our worldview and are helping to build a world of lasting peace and greater compassion.

Amanda Johnson

**Editorial advocates lax ethical standards**

The editorial "Two Strikes for the Ethics Board," criticizes the Ethics

Policy Committee for involving Hopkins department chairs in discussing the proposed public exam reserve file. Seeking input from faculty members who are being asked to participate is only reasonable. The Committee will vote on the proposal at its next meeting.

The editorial also criticizes the proposed "two-strike" system, which would require the expulsion of a student found guilty of a second violation of the Hopkins academic code. The author "cringe[s]" at "ethics policies that do not allow for consideration of ... unique circumstances." The proposed policy does not limit consideration of any case. The Ethics Board must conduct a fair and thorough hearing of the circumstances of each case.

The editorial defends multiple academic violations by suggesting that professors are "unclear about what constitutes an ethical violation" and that "definitions of what constitutes cheating" varies. The definition of cheating does not vary at Hopkins. The academic ethics manual clearly sets forth expected behavior.

The editors should "cringe" at advocating multiple academic violations. It cheapens the Hopkins degree. The two-strike policy allows a second chance. But that is all. This policy is an attempt to ensure that a degree from Hopkins "reflects hard work and intellectual maturity," the qualities of a student who upholds the Hopkins academic code.

Elizabeth Owens

**Leiman's facts wrong**

Leiman's article was sickening — Israel declared war on the Palestinians in 1948, but when they fight back and kill 12 armed soldiers in occupied territory he declares "the Palestinians have dug their own grave, and now must lie in it" like a frightened child who realizes he isn't as powerful as he once thought.

Leiman claims three civilians were killed in the Hebron attack. *Ha'aratz*, however, says that all 12 were soldiers, and the acquired target [sic] of the attack was the man most responsible for the collective punishments endured by Palestinians over the past two years: Colonel Weinberg, IDF brigade commander, West Bank.

Leiman claims "this attack was an act of war." But to claim that those whose land was occupied by the Israelis more than 35 years ago somehow initiated violence against their occupiers is akin to saying Nat Turner initiated violence against southern whites when he went on [sic] burning and killing spree in 1831; or that Nelson Mandela initiated violence against the Africans [sic] in South Africa by attacking white soldiers.

The Jews have been oppressed throughout history — this does not give them the right to oppress the Palestinians, who had never wronged them before the 1948 Jewish invasion of Palestine. The *News-Letter* should be absolutely ashamed for publishing such war mongering garbage.

Feroze Sidhwani

**LETTERS POLICY**

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## THE JOHNS HOPKINS

# NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

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## Pondering a new schedule

At a meeting with students last month, Dean of Enrollment and Academic Services William T. Conley suggested a possible change to the University's traditional class scheduling system. He proposed that current Thursday-Friday classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays and that Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday classes be held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

This change, which is also being considered by the curriculum committees of both the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences and the Whiting School of Engineering, would represent a significant improvement over the current system. While some students will probably oppose the idea because it could disrupt their plans to avoid Friday classes, we believe the proposal would help alleviate a major scheduling problem at Hopkins.

Currently, a large percentage of classes are offered in only a few time slots — mostly between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Wednesday — as both professors and students try to shorten their work weeks. As a result, students face numerous class conflicts each semester and are unable to take advantage of the many diverse offerings of other departments.

Some conflicts are to be expected in any scheduling system, but packing most of the University's courses into a small window of time each week certainly adds to the problem. By removing the prospect of taking Fridays off, the proposed system would encourage classes to be offered at a wider variety of times.

Students who discussed the proposal at the Nov. 21 "On the Road with the Deans" event cited this as the most important problem that should be addressed by a new class scheduling system, but there exist other reasons to consider abandoning the current schedule.

Adding a day between class meeting times would also allow professors to assign homework problems during the week rather than leaving students to do all of their studying on the weekends. This change could potentially offer students who currently spend weekends

doing schoolwork more time for extracurricular and community pursuits — or for much-needed breaks from their studies.

Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell said that "there has been serious consideration given to [the proposal currently before the curriculum committees]," which was written by Conley, Assistant Dean of Academic Advising John Bader and the registrar's office. Bader said the proposal is "still very preliminary" and that administrators are "seeing what people think."

As the deans consult students and faculty, we suspect the largest objections will result from a resistance to abandon a familiar schedule. But we hope that they too give the proposal — and its potential advantages — the same serious consideration that the administration already is.

It should be noted that the proposal is by no means an unheard of shift, as many departments already offer Tuesday-Thursday classes — a fact that itself requires some attention. If departments offer classes outside of the recommended time slots, what would prevent them from continuing to schedule Monday through Wednesday classes even if the proposal were adopted?

A quick look at next semester's course book reveals that the practice of ignoring University convention is indeed common — upwards of 50 Tuesday-Thursday classes are scheduled. For some departments, like Anthropology, these courses represent nearly half of their offerings. Even more so than classes in popular time slots, these present significant problems for students, as they conflict with multiple courses being offered at different times.

As the administration considers a scheduling overhaul, we ask that departments also make it a priority to follow whatever guidelines are accepted. If they fail to abide by the suggestions made by the schools' curriculum committees, a change in policy would mean little. With full support from the departments, then, we hope that administrators will adopt the proposed scheduling changes.

# OPINIONS

## Rules send Arellano back to the theatrical stone age

New regulations stifle set design and restrict what is possible

**H**opkins Construction Alert: for the foreseeable future, the Arellano Theater will be completely inaccessible. Look for the Arellano Assembly Room instead.

In an effort to head off an Outdoors Club-style freeze out, though, student groups met with the administration and agreed to measures assuring continued shows in the space. It seems that Arellano Theater is not officially a theater after all; it's actually an "assembly room." This distinction requires strict rules to make sure city building codes are enforced. Absolute rules: no construction, no painting and no storage. Absolute result: no real technical production in Arellano.

The partially implemented rules have already suppressed opportunities for highly creative talent. I spoke to Max Sobolik, the technical director for Witness Theater, a group that recently completed a showcase in Arellano. Sobolik commented that the preliminary rules forced him to seek alternative construction locations. Witness tried to use other locations to construct sets, such as the Swirnow shop, but they were in use. In the end, the otherwise simple sets the audience saw were instead monuments to the Witness staff's technical innovation. The new rules channel skill otherwise spent on more creative aspects of a show went into methods for getting doors into theaters. Truly, the rule makers have misplaced priorities.

The Barnstormers' upcoming Intersession show has already felt the rules' chilling effects. Instead of accepting play submissions directly from directors, the Barnstormers' board first screened a possible list of shows for excessive technical requirements. Once a set of possible shows was approved, the group then invited directors to submit proposals for directing an approved play. The Intersession Show has always had a much smaller budget than the professionally directed productions, and thus, greatly reduced technical production. Yet that hasn't stopped previous student-directed Arellano shows like *Hot-L Baltimore*, *Happy Birthday, Wanda June* or *Joan of Arc* from providing the Barnstormers technical crew with many opportunities to shine. Unfortunately, prescreening shows for excessive technical content is



RAPHAEL SCHWEBER-KOREN  
THE NEW DEALER

the only sensible way to work in the new Arellano environment. So when we students watch a well-acted Intersession Show that uses only a chair and a light bulb, we should not fault the Barnstormers.

What about Swirnow Theater? Hopkins opened that theater last year as part of a renewed commitment to the arts. The administration bought new technical equipment and hired Bill Roche, a top-notch technical director. Students regularly create amazing and professional settings that were possible only on a limited basis in Arellano. To anyone who has seen a performance, or worked on a production in Swirnow, many dreams and visions have been fulfilled.

But Swirnow can only house one production at a time, including time for construction. If the administration believes in keeping student theater vibrant and inventive, it needs to provide more, considering that there are three large theater groups that use Swirnow: Dunbar Baldwin Hughes, Witness and the Barnstormers, as well as others like the John Astin acting class. Confining technical exhibition to Swirnow limits the range and number of shows the Hopkins student theater community can present. Having multiple spaces to accommodate the diverse nature of Hopkins' theater should be a primary goal of the administration as part of its expressed commitment.

The new rules' timing could not have been worse, having been introduced just as student theater was seeing larger levels of involvement and commitment. Swirnow most likely attracted prospective students to

Hopkins, convinced of the school's commitment to vibrant student theater. Sobolik noted, "we're part of a long tradition, and it had begun to look as if there would be a new surge of worthwhile, high quality productions." Now what will there be?

The Barnstormers have reacted sensibly to the new setting, and found they've learned something in the process. "Some may find the rules limiting, but our group has opted to view them as challenging," said Kris Jansma, president of the Barnstormers. Referring to their new method for play selection, Jansma noted, "quickly, we discovered that our new system helped us handle other challenges much better." Kudos to the Barnstormers for seizing the opportunity to change. But there's still a technical void in the theater that housed *Tommy*, an absence completely owing to the new rules.

Witness, on the other hand, has been severely undercut by the situation. Losing the Arellano production room and backstage reduced their storage space to zero, because they do not even have space in Swirnow. Also, unlike the Barnstormers, Witness mostly performs one act plays, requiring some sort of change of setting between each play. Lighting changes require more than Arellano's lighting equipment, which barely provides the equipment for a generic lighting set-up. Witness ends up in a box.

Arellano is capable of hosting serious technical artistry. The administration should either quickly present student theater groups with a plan for quickly moving Arellano up to theater building code and revitalizing its technical facilities or work out a real and viable alternative that gives groups a second full-use space. Alternative construction and storage facilities for groups might be an option. An opportunity exists here to lift space pressure off of Swirnow without sacrificing show quality. Perhaps President Brody could convince an alumna to be a benefactor to the theater community. Serious effort, though, needs to be made now.

The alternative is to continue to under the current list of thou-shal-nots. Unfortunately, those will help student theater like euthanasia. Killing technical production will keep Arellano safe. But it'll strangle it.

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## How Social Security rips off the average man

### AARONBACK ELEPHANT IN THE LIVING ROOM

**S**ocial Security "has been called the 'third rail of American politics' — the one you're not supposed to touch because it shocks you. But, if you don't touch it, you can't fix it. And I intend to fix it." So spoke George W. Bush in his acceptance speech at the 2000 Republican Convention. At the time, his words sent shivers down my spine. The candidate had won my eternal respects some months before by proposing that workers be allowed to redirect a portion of their Social Security taxes into private investment accounts. Fiscal conservatives had been talking about it for years, but as Bush points out it was generally deemed too politically risky by Republicans. Bush never backed down from his bold proposal, and in fact pushed it with consistency, mentioning it in almost every stump speech. With a firm Republican majority in both houses of Congress, this landmark reform is finally within the range of possibility. It would be Bush's single greatest domestic initiative!

First let us dispense with some petty definitional issues that have plagued the debate in recent months. A plan like that described above would once have been known as "Social Security privatization." Recently, Republicans stopped referring to it as such and began speaking of "personal Social Security accounts" or something of that sort. Liberals seized on

the name-change, charging that Republicans were being deceptive, or that they were backing off of their position.

Polling does show that "personal accounts" are somewhat more popular than "privatization." I am not running for office, and so I will continue to use the shorter "privatization." The truth is that both names describe the exact same policy. If anything, the new name more accurately describes what Republicans are pushing for. Privatization in the past has pertained to the likes of railroads and public companies, and has meant some approximation of "sell off to the highest bidder." That does not describe what is actually being proposed here: the transfer of Social Security taxes into — get this — personal accounts!

These accounts would be vehicles for workers to save for their retirement. Most likely, workers would be prohibited from withdrawing from these accounts until they turn 65. Under most proposals, their options would be limited to several diversified investment plans, similar to mutual funds or 401(k)s, that would include a balance of stocks and bonds.

So why does Social Security need fixing? The reasons are so various, and so compelling, that it is difficult to list them here in the space allotted to this column. To start, the program is destined for bankruptcy. Around 2012, baby boomers will begin to retire. Estimates vary as to how large a strain this will put on the system over the next 30 years. The lowest estimates for the un-funded liability in the system (*i.e.*, the difference between how much it will collect in taxes and how much it will pay out in benefits) are in the neighborhood of 6 trillion dollars. High-end estimates

so what if you took that money and invested it in Treasury Bonds, which are fully guaranteed by the Federal Government, and make an average return of about 6 percent a year.

So what if you took that money and invested it in Treasury Bonds, which are fully guaranteed by the Federal Government, and make an average return of about 6 percent a year.

## We're map morons. So what?

**S**ometimes, my carefree attitude and positive outlook on life make me forget how dangerous and worrisome the world can be. Luckily, I go back home every now and then, where my mother keeps me apprised of the dangers that I, and by extension the American people face. Last week, I was told that I should worry about eating too much sugar, terrorism in Grand Central Station, eating too much starch, visiting certain parts of Brooklyn, going outside in such a light jacket and riding the subway at night. In addition to this litany, which was addressed directly to my devil-may-care attitude was a more general worry about the nation as a whole.

The Barnstormers have reacted sensibly to the new setting, and found they've learned something in the process. "Some may find the rules limiting, but our group has opted to view them as challenging," said Kris Jansma, president of the Barnstormers. Referring to their new method for play selection, Jansma noted, "quickly, we discovered that our new system helped us handle other challenges much better." Kudos to the Barnstormers for seizing the opportunity to change. But there's still a technical void in the theater that housed *Tommy*, an absence completely owing to the new rules.

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are around 9 trillion dollars. Now, you may say, that sounds like a whole lot, but how much money is that really? To give you some perspective, last year the entire GDP of the United States was just under 10 trillion dollars.

On every paycheck, you may notice a large gap between what you earned and what you received which is helpfully labeled FICA. This delightful acronym is the official name for Social Security taxes. They total about 7 percent of your wages. Your employer also pays about 7 percent of your wages to the government. Usually this money is simply deducted from the wage offered to you. In reality you pay about 14 percent of your yearly income in Social Security taxes. Unless, of course, you're rich. Then you pay much less since FICA does not apply to incomes over \$72,600.

So if you make \$300,000 dollars a year, you would pay only 3.4 percent of your wages to Social Security. But let's stick with those of us who make low to moderate incomes, because we're the ones who are really getting screwed by this ostensibly progressive program. Don't low-wage earners get tax rebates at the end of the year? They get income tax rebates, not FICA rebates. If you make \$14,000 a year, have three kids, and don't make enough to owe any income taxes, you still pay 14 percent of your income to Social Security taxes, period. What do you get in return? The amount of money you receive when you retire is equivalent to a 2 percent annual return on your taxes.

So what if you took that money and invested it in Treasury Bonds, which are fully guaranteed by the Federal Government, and make an average return of about 6 percent a year.

You would be vastly richer upon retirement. What if you took it and put it into stocks, which make an average of 10 percent a year? You would be rolling in cash. The difference in compound interest over a lifetime of savings between 10 percent and 2 percent is absolutely immense. To get an idea of how Social Security privatization would affect you, go to <http://www.socialsecurity.org> and use the Cato Institute's calculator. The results may shock you.

But stocks can go down, say the fear-mongers. What if Social Security had been privatized and you had retired this year? Wouldn't you be screwed? Not at all. Sure, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has fallen from about 12,000 in March of 2000 to about 8,500 today. But as late as 1994 the index stood at around 3,500. You would have more than doubled your money in the last eight years alone! In fact, the American stock market has never yielded a negative return over a 10 year period, including the Great Depression and the Second World War.

Say every worker was investing a fifth of his Social Security taxes in this incredible wealth-generating machine. The government could slash his benefits by a third or more, and he would still enjoy a much higher retirement income. The un-funded liability in Social Security would be eliminated, and people would live richer and more secure in their senior years. If you were making 2 percent a year on such a huge portion of your income, and you knew that you could be making 6 percent on government-guaranteed bonds, with no added risk, would you shift your assets into bonds? Of course you would. To force people to do otherwise is moronic and inhumane.

"cram schools" until the wee hours, where they received additional instruction in preparation for high-stakes college entrance exams. The insinuation was that as an American, I had it easy.

PBS had company. Our lack of "competitiveness" with Japan was a big topic, with Congress holding hearings with titles like "Japan's Economic Challenge." The education system inevitably came up. Their better-schooled children would one day grow up to be our bosses, so the story went.

When the Cold War was at its height, the Soviet Union's launching of Sputnik produced much hand-wringing and attempts to improve what was seen as a weak science education curriculum in American schools. Japanese and Russians are no longer seen as having systems worth emulating. Japan has been in and out of recession and bank crisis for more than a decade and Russia is careening toward third-world levels of destitution and crime. Of all countries, only the United States, with its ramshackle localized education system, still stands as an economic and military superpower. Our fears were misplaced.

Does this mean that we don't need to invest in education? Of course not; schools must become a path out of poverty and a source of skilled workers. The point is that there is something else that determines a nation's success, and it has nothing to do with what we can find on a map. Those kids in Shanghai were taking the GREs because the SAT is not offered in China and they need a score to send to American universities. Many want to come here, as do the best and brightest of many other countries.

Why? Shanghai high schoolers want to live in America not just because this

is where the jobs are. In America, you don't need to bribe anyone to get permission to move to a different city. In America, the government doesn't block your access to certain news and religion Web sites. Although our supply of educated workers is a factor, we are successful because we are the freest nation in the world and we have a can-do spirit.

Pardon me if I sound a little conservative, but if it sounds that way, it is only because liberals haven't been very good in articulating that their values are commensurate with the average flag-waving middle American's. If we cede patriotism to the theocratic xenophobes of the right, we lose people who are receptive to our actual policy agenda.

Even if we can't find it on a map, we are still a city on a hill.

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CHARLES DONEFER  
WE'RE LEFT,  
THEY'RE WRONG

jerk responses to the world around us. That brings us back to the question of the role each of us can play in this fight. We can each help by educating ourselves about the various backgrounds and cultures present at Johns Hopkins, by taking part in discussions about the nature of terrorism and how to fight it, and by taking pause and really thinking before instinctively responding to the words or actions of others.

Each of these steps can help build the foundation upon which a strong anti-terror campaign can be built.

By educating ourselves about various backgrounds and cultures, we can close the gaps that divide us, and deny the terrorists the ability to divide and conquer.

By debating the nature of terrorism and the effectiveness of various anti-terror policies we are able to better grasp the intricacies of the terrorist threat and begin the type of critical thinking that will allow us to effectively combat this threat. This is perhaps the most crucial, and difficult, of all the steps because it requires each of us to abandon the traditional logic that we have become accustomed to and to rethink the fundamental bases of our society. We must debate the role of torture, assassination, "collective punishment" and non-traditional weapons in this new war. Our initial instincts on many of these issues may prove to be right, but without a thorough discussion of the role that these elements play in a changing world, we might end up allowing the oversimplifications will not affect our daily lives.

Nothing could be more dangerous than this apathy.

Terrorism thrives on our self-serving tendencies. Terrorists have come to understand that they can continue to make gains through the use of terrorism, so long as the world community remains divided on how to deal with this threat. If terrorist attacks don't directly impact Americans, we are more likely to look at the "underlying causes" and to fault the country against which the terrorist is acting, instead of insisting that only the terrorists themselves can be held responsible for their actions.

We have a responsibility as Americans, as university students and as citizens of the world to educate ourselves about the threat that terrorism poses to democratic societies and to investigate what role we can play in helping to thwart this threat.

As the memories of Sept. 11 begin to fade, we are all faced with the challenge of keeping up the willingness we had a year ago to make personal sacrifices in the name of the greater good. Our original vitality has turned into annoyance at the time it takes to pass through airport security, or the inability to avoid debates about the role of terror in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

This frustration is understandable.

It is often difficult to keep up momentum in a fight that seems to have no end.

But this frustration must not be allowed to turn into indifference. Each of us can help in the fight against terror, and we can begin right here on campus.

University campuses are ideal places

for the types of discussions and debates that are pivotal to this war on terror. Terrorism is intrinsically a threat that requires us to "think outside the box." Terrorists use our greatest strengths (free press, open society, civil liberties, democracy) against us by exploiting the weaknesses these elements can cause in responding to their threat. Fighting terrorism requires new thinking and requires each of us to avoid our knee-jerk reactions upon which they are based.

Fighting terrorism requires patience, strength and ingenuity. Only through constant discussions about the difficult issues can we properly curtail this threat, while ensuring that we do not loose the fundamental nature of our society. We can begin this debate right here on campus, in classrooms, religious settings, and through extracurricular groups like the new Hopkins anti-terror group, Persuading Realistic Options to Effectively Combat Terror (PROTECT).

Terrorism will require us to make difficult choices as a society. Only by preparing here and now for these questions, can we hope to play a critical role in these upcoming debates.

# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## Bio-chem warfare: what exactly does it consist of?

BY SUPRIA RANADE

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

The specter of the use of chemical or biological weapons in warfare has recently gained a significant amount of attention, primarily because of the looming threat of a U.S. war on Iraq. Little of their destructive capabilities are known to the general public due to the fact that these weapons of mass destruction have hardly been used in modern day warfare.

When the first atom bomb was dropped by the United States in August 1945 on Hiroshima, Japan, the world braced itself for the new face of nuclear warfare. The ability to kill thousands of people in less than 10 minutes was mind boggling and the

introduction of weapons of mass destruction suggested the complete obliteration of antagonistic sides in an ensuing world conflict.

Like nuclear weapons, biological and chemical weapons are classified under "weapons of mass destruction." These types of weapons, however, have surprisingly been used since the early 1300s, the first case being recorded in 1346 in Feodossia, Ukraine. The Genoese army used rats and their disease-carrying fleas to attack the Tatar soldiers. Unbeknownst at the time that such a disease spread rapidly through germs in the air, the Genoese army also contracted the disease and both armies were severely weakened.

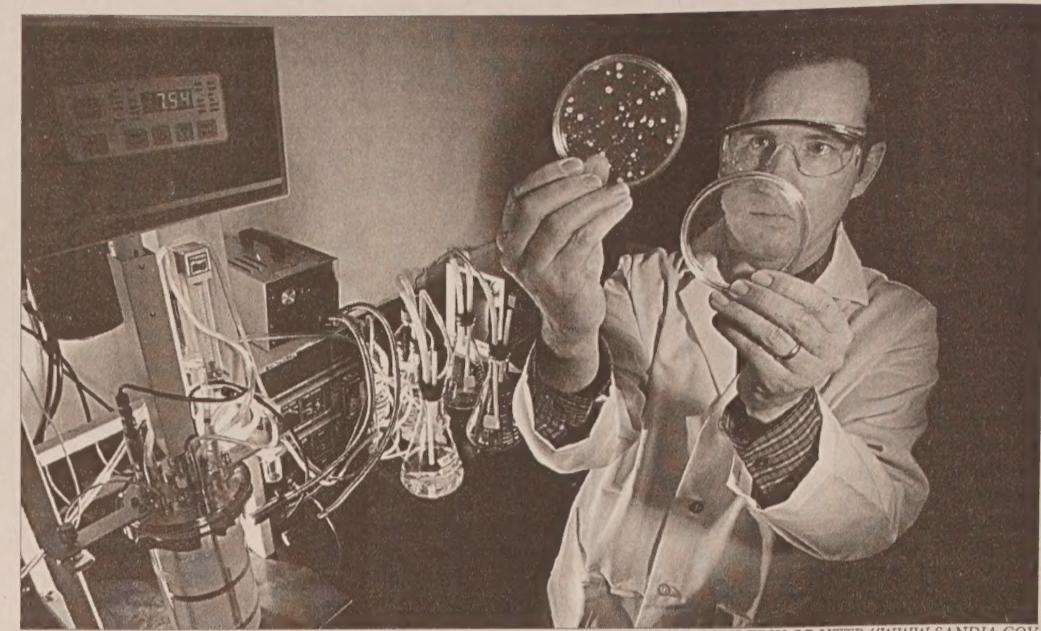
Another historical example in-

volved the British army during the French and Indian war from 1754 to 1767. The British distributed smallpox-infested blankets to unsuspecting Native Americans, and consequently decimated a large part of the population.

Recently gaining a significant amount of attention in the past couple of months, primarily because of the looming threat of war on Iraq and the Anthrax scare, modern day biological weapons under study have far more destructive capabilities than their predecessors. According to ABC News, biological weapons are defined as any infectious agent such as a bacteria or virus used intentionally to inflict harm upon others. This definition often includes biologically-derived toxins and poisons as well as lethal microorganisms, both of which function by rapidly attacking vital organs in the human body.

There are many classes and types of biological and chemical weapons. Their characteristics vary from size to types of afflictions, but the overall ability of grotesque annihilation is inherent in each of these pathogens.

The most feared chemical weapon is Sarin. According to ABC News, Sarin, a nerve agent, has been produced by the United States, Russia (and the Soviet Union) and Iraq, and is a member of the organophosphate chemical family, as are many modern pesticides. It functions as a cholinesterase inhibitor and halts all control of muscular activity. The muscles in the person afflicted will contract uncontrollably, and eventually cause death by suffocation,

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A lab scientist examines strains of Anthrax above. The threat of the introduction of new strains is still present.

since the diaphragm is a muscle.

Another chemical agent is mustard gas. First used in World War I, mustard gas functions by blistering the skin and destroying lung tissue. About 10 milligrams in the lungs will kill a person.

Hydrogen cyanide is also classified under chemical weapons. Its high toxicity and corrosive abilities leads to a rapid death if sufficient concentrations are applied.

VX gas is another extremely deadly chemical, and like Sarin, it operates by cutting off the nervous system. According to the Washington Post, a special form has been developed that is so adhesive that it is virtually impossible to remove from the surface that it is in contact with.

Biological weapons use a specified bacteria or virus to kill a target population. According to ABC News, Anthrax, a type of bacteria found in

plants, functions in two main phases. The first phase leads to flu-like symptoms and severe chest pain. The second phase, which is almost always lethal, produces a vast number of the toxin-organisms that accumulate in the body. There are approximately 100 million lethal doses per gram of material, which is 100,000 times deadlier than the deadliest chemical warfare agent.

The second type of biological weapon is botulism. Similar to Anthrax in its effect, botulism produces a poisonous substance, botulinum, that causes blurred vision, difficulty in swallowing or speaking and extreme weakness. In its final stages it causes paralysis and respiratory failure, which eventually leads to death.

Smallpox is also classified under biological weapons, although it was fully eradicated in the 1980s, with the final cases in Somalia. Unlike the previous two, smallpox is highly conta-

gious and can potentially kill up to 40 percent of people who catch the virus in about two weeks. New strains of the virus can be developed and therefore proliferation would be extremely hazardous.

Despite international efforts to ban the production of these repugnant weapons, 17 countries have managed to retain some sort of biological and chemical capability, the most voluminous being the United States. According to The Economist, although most chemical and biological weapon manufacturing is not completely accounted for in several of these countries, their proliferation is not as huge of a threat as it seems because it is hard to manufacture and deploy them successfully.

Even still, scientists around the world are finding ways new ways of detecting biological threats to adequately prepare for possible bio-terrorism.

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Working with chemical weapons involves complete physical protection.

## JHU study finds genetic origin of disease

BY NICK SZUFLITA

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Johns Hopkins researchers have found that knocking out a particular muscle gene that results in "Mighty Mice" also lessens the severity of a genetic mutation that causes muscular dystrophy. Blocking the activity of the gene that codes for myostatin could one day be used to help treat degenerative muscle diseases in humans.

The findings, which are scheduled for publication in the December issue of the *Annals of Neurology*, show that in mice which carry the genetic mutation that causes Duchenne muscular dystrophy in humans, when the gene for myostatin was "knocked-out" less physical damage to muscles was caused. These mice were also stronger than other mice with the Duchenne mutation.

Researchers from Hopkins bred mice carrying the genetic mutation that leads to Duchenne muscular dystrophy in humans with mice lacking the myostatin gene. Mice with muscular dystrophy and completely lacking myostatin were more muscular and stronger than those who had the myostatin gene at three, six and nine

months of age. Most importantly, muscle tissue in these mice appeared to be healthier.

"Knocking-out" the myostatin gene isn't possible for treating patients, but blocking the myostatin protein might be," said Se-Jin Lee, M.D., Ph.D., professor of molecular biology and genetics at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, in a recent Hopkins press release.

"Myostatin still needs to be studied in people to see if it has the same role in our muscles as it has in mice."

Even if myostatin does limit muscle growth in humans, researchers caution that blocking it will not cure muscular dystrophy or any other degenerative muscle condition, because the underlying causes of the disease would remain.

"However, increasing muscle mass and strength by blocking myostatin could conceivably delay progression or improve quality of life," said first author Kathryn Wagner, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of neurology, in a recent Hopkins press release.

An X-linked trait, the mutation that causes Duchenne muscular dystrophy is found on the X chromosome. Therefore, it is covered-up in females, who have two copies of the

gene on each of their X chromosomes (males have one X chromosome, and one Y). It is also the most common muscular dystrophy and the most common inherited lethal disease of childhood, affecting one in every 3,500 live male births. Currently, there is no good treatment, and few patients survive long enough to reach adulthood.

Satellite cells, or stem cells in muscle, manage to keep pace with the disease, regenerating damaged tissues. Unfortunately, this regenerative ability succumbs to the damaging nature of the disease, resulting in the loss of muscle, and the replacement of muscle tissue with non-muscle tissue, scar tissue and fat for the most part.

Mice with the muscular dystrophy causing mutation also exhibit this scarring process, known as fibrosis. The research team from Hopkins reported that loss of myostatin function significantly reduced the amount of fibrosis, though, which suggests that the muscle regeneration process was improved.

The scientists from Johns Hopkins also hope to unravel the mechanism of muscle regeneration in mice with

and without myostatin, which might reveal even better targets for improving the process. The researchers also plan to use various genetic techniques to effectively shut down the myostatin gene in adult mice, rather than at conception, so that they can see if losing myostatin later in the course of muscular dystrophy is also beneficial.

The National Institutes of Health, the Duchenne Parent Project and the Muscular Dystrophy Association provided funding for the project. Authors of the study are Wagner, Lee, Alexandra McPherron and Nicole Winik, all of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

According to Joanna Downer, Myostatin was licensed by Johns Hopkins University to MetaMorphix, Inc., and sublicensed to Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Lee and McPherron are entitled to a share of the royalties received by the University from sales of this factor. Lee, McPherron and the University own MetaMorphix stock, which is subject to certain restrictions under University policy. Lee is a paid consultant to MetaMorphix. The terms of these arrangements are being managed by the University in accordance with its conflict of interest policies.

## Study shows lead in water affects learning

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Baltimore water pipes have one of highest levels of lead in the nation.

BY ROBERT DAVIS

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Last month, a team of researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health released a study indicating that the effects of lead poisoning on neurological activity may be reversible. The study found that the use of "environmental enrichment," or the use of animate and inanimate stimulus in the environment, actually helped to improve spatial learning.

Lead poisoning, a problem that the US Surgeon General considers one of the biggest environmental threats to children, is caused by the absorption of lead into the blood stream. Most lead is introduced to children in deteriorating lead-based paints commonly found in houses built before 1978, according to the EPA.

"We all recognize that children who are intellectually stimulated have a greater capacity to learn. Unfortunately, often times the same children who are exposed to lead, also live in impoverished and neglected homes," said Dr. Tomás R. Guilarte, the study's lead author in a recent Hopkins press release.

Here in Baltimore, lead poisoning is a common occurrence. According to the Maryland Childhood Lead Screening Program, Baltimore City is listed as having the highest risk for lead poisoning. While this study offers hope for the children affected by lead-poisoning, it still requires that they be raised in a stimulating environment, which according to the MCLSP, can be difficult for working, low income families to provide. It is

unlikely that those most commonly affected by lead intoxication will be able to get such drastic treatment proposed by the new findings.

The Hopkins study focused on the effects environmental enrichment had on neurological development and spatial learning. Rats were used as the test subjects because they have shown similar spatial learning deficits after exposure to lead as children. The experiment began with male litters split into four groups. Two groups were raised in multi-level cages with many toys, while the other two groups were raised individually in ordinary, isolated laboratory cages.

The testing phase of the study began when the rats were about 50 days of age and used a water maze as the obstacle. The maze consisted of a submerged platform in one quadrant of the tank. The platform was obscured using water that was tinted with non-toxic, white paint. The test consisted of placing the subject on the platform for 20 seconds; then the subject was moved to one of the remaining three quadrants.

The rats were timed on how fast they could locate the submerged platform. Passing the course was determined as taking 20 seconds or less to find the platform. The data showed that testing was completed in four days, for the rats reared in the environmentally enriched habitats.

Unlike current treatments, the new finding offers a potential treatment to actually repair the damage caused by lead poisoning, instead of simply stopping further damage. The findings mark a major stepping stone, by being the first study to show that cognitive deficits caused by lead poisoning may be reversed.

## Upcoming Lectures at JHMI and Homewood

Thursday, Dec. 05

7:30 a.m. GYN/OB Grand Rounds: Chronic Pelvic Pain  
Faith Barash, M.D.  
Assistant Professor, Gyn/Ob, Johns Hopkins Medicine  
Phipps 240  
Sponsored by: Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics

Thursday, Dec. 05

7:45 a.m. The New Generation of Cardiac Markers  
Alan Wu, Ph.D.  
Director, Clinical Chemistry, Hartford Hospital, Hartford, Conn.  
West Lecture Hall, WBSB  
Sponsored by: Department of Pathology

Thursday, Dec. 05

12:00 p.m. High Fidelity Chromosome Cycles: Keeping the Genome Whole  
Forrest Spencer, Ph.D.  
McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine  
Suite 2-200, 1830 Bldg.  
Sponsored by: Department of Cell Biology

Thursday, Dec. 05

4:00 p.m. The TNF-alpha Converting Enzyme: Activation, Inhibition and Substrate Selectivity  
Marcos E. Milla, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, University of Pennsylvania, Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics  
Mudd 100, Homewood Campus  
Sponsored by: Department of Biology

Thursday, Dec. 05

4:00 p.m. Uptake of Membrane-Permeable Dyes by MDCK Cells  
Dr. Kenneth R. Spring  
Chief, Section on Transport Physiology, Lab of Kidney and Electrolyte Metabolism, NHLBI, NIH  
Ross 903  
Sponsored by: Nephrology Center Seminar

Friday, Dec. 06

11:00 a.m. Literature Searching in Health Sciences Informatics  
Holly Harden, M.L.S.  
Liaison Librarian, Welch Medical Library  
Meyer B-105  
Sponsored by: Health Sciences and Pathology Informatics

Friday, Dec. 06

12:00 p.m. Central Sensitization is a Spinal Cord Form of LTP  
William D. Willis, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.  
Professor & Chair, Department of Anatomy & Neurosciences, Director, Marine Biomedical Institute  
Meyer 1-191  
Sponsored by: Blaustein Pain Treatment Program

Friday, Dec. 06

3:00 p.m. Determinants of Genome Stability and Cell Cycle Progression at Mitosis  
Philip Hieter, Ph.D.  
Professor and Director, Biotechnology Laboratory, Centre for Molecular Medicine & Therapeutics  
Mountcastle Auditorium, PCTB

# JHU study proves Bilirubin can be toxic

BY NICK SZUFLITA  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University have solved a long-standing paradox involving Bilirubin through identifying it as a major antioxidant in cells. Bilirubin, the small yellow molecule created at the end of the removal of hemoglobin, was long known to be beneficial at slightly higher-than-normal levels, but toxic at high concentrations. This is primarily seen in newborns, where Bilirubin is at the root of the yellow color of jaundice and causes brain damage at very high levels.

Bilirubin reacts with highly reactive forms of oxygen in cells called free radicals, which are responsible for an overwhelming amount of cellular damage. While this is old news, this revelation of the true potency of Bilirubin displaces ideas that have been held for nearly eighty years.

"So potent an antioxidant is Bilirubin that it displaces Glutathione, the molecule believed for eighty years to be the most important cellular antioxidant," said Solomon Snyder, M.D., director of neuroscience at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, in a recent Hopkins press release.

"There are some very elegant studies in the literature that tie slightly elevated Bilirubin levels to better alertness in newborns, a lower risk of coronary artery disease and cancer in adults, and less damage from stroke and animal models. But these findings went against what people thought

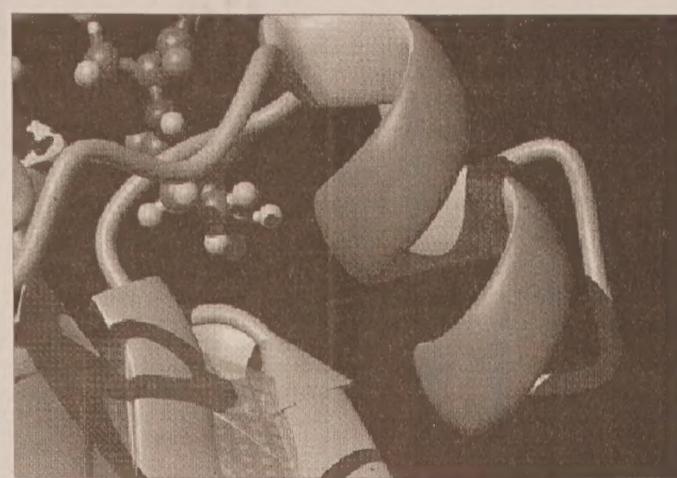
they knew about Bilirubin, and the results were largely shrugged off," Snyder went on to say. "Now they make sense."

Bilirubin is roughly a thousand times less concentrated than other antioxidants in cells, but is far more powerful. It was found that one molecule of glutathione can consume only one oxidant molecule, whereas one molecule of Bilirubin can consume as many as 10,000.

Ph.D. candidate David Barañano, leader of the team that tested the hypothesis that the tiny Bilirubin molecules played a very important role. Researchers used RNA interference to inhibit the action of the RNA that codes for Biliverdin reductase, the enzyme that catalyzes the production of Bilirubin. This technique is effectively the same as "knocking-out" the gene. Barañano demonstrated that human cancer cells and rat brain cells experienced much more damage and cell death in response to small amounts of an oxidant like hydrogen peroxide than did control cells, which had intact biliverdin reductase enzymes.

"An oxidant reacts with Bilirubin to make biliverdin, which is then converted back into Bilirubin by biliverdin reductase," said Snyder, who also suggests that Bilirubin may protect cell membranes, while glutathione may protect inner regions of cells.

Researchers say that free radicals damage cell membranes and DNA beyond repair if levels of antioxidants fall too low.



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*Above is a model of a Bilirubin molecule. Because of high oxygen content in blood, Bilirubin's potency can fluctuate dramatically.*

Prior to these findings, it was unclear why Bilirubin was produced by the body at all. If the degradation of hemoglobin stopped one step earlier, the end product would be a greenish, soluble molecule (biliverdin), which could be excreted easily, without the threat of toxic accumulation within the cell. However, most animal cells, continue the process to Bilirubin, which is toxic at high levels.

Said Snyder, "If all Bilirubin does is become toxic at high amounts, it doesn't make sense that animals would have developed its production at all, especially for a process as routine as degrading hemoglobin.

But oxidative stress is behind almost all cellular damage and death, from inflammation to heart attack and stroke. As a very elegant and potent way to protect cells from this stress, Bilirubin is likely an important evolutionary development."

Presently researchers can search for agents to stimulate the release of Bilirubin from blood cells, to prevent its clearance from the body and raise its concentration in cells. This would allow patients to enhance the effects of Bilirubin and benefit from its cellular protection. It is still unclear, however, whether this approach would reduce cellular damage in heart attack or stroke victims.

## SCIENCEBRIEFS

### Gene mutation leads to breast cancer risk

Women with certain gene mutations have more than a 60 percent lifetime risk of developing breast cancer. Now a new study suggests the risk is even greater for these women if they used oral contraceptives at an early age or before 1975.

The study, in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, found that among women with the BRCA1 gene mutation, taking the pill years ago increased the chances of developing breast cancer by 33 to 42 percent when compared to mutation carriers at an early age or before 1975.

Dr. Steven A. Narod, chairman of breast cancer research at the Centre for Research on Women's Health at the University of Toronto, said the study does not mean that modern birth control pills are dangerous for women with the breast cancer gene.

"In this data, the only women who had an increased risk started taking the pill before 1975. Also, they had to take it when they were young, under the age of 25," said Narod. He said the increased risk for the gene mutation carriers is "mostly women who took the pill when they were young a long time ago."

The study is based on an analysis of the health histories of more than 2,600 women in 11 countries, all of whom have mutations of the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes. Half of the women studied had taken birth control pills and half did not. The study compared the breast cancer histories of the two groups and found there was an increased risk for the pill takers.

Debbie Saslow, director of breast and gynecological cancer control for the American Cancer Society, said the study suggests that women with the BRCA mutations should approach oral contraceptive use with caution, but that the research need to be verified by other studies before the findings can be generally applied.

Saslow said decisions about oral contraceptive use among mutation carriers is complex because the pill is protective, to some degree, against ovarian cancer, a much more difficult to detect type of deadly cancer.

"I think women who have this BRCA1 mutations need to talk to their doctors because there is a trade-off," she said.

—The Associated Press

1994 and now exceeds 80,000 people. Preventing rejection requires changing a pig's genetic makeup, which Prather's team is tackling.

Critics of animal-to-human transplants also fear that viruses carried in pigs could cross the species barrier and infect human recipients, who in turn could spread the diseases to other people. They point as an example to the virus that causes AIDS, which some scientists believe started in chimpanzees.

Already the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has recommended that xenotransplantation recipients be kept from donating blood, sperm or any body parts to other humans.

Another hurdle is the "yuk" factor.

Although chemically treated pig heart valves have been used in humans for years and pig tissue has been tested in Parkinson's patients, no one knows how many people would agree to have a pig heart or kidney implanted.

Prather's team and its corporate sponsor, Immerge BioTherapeutics, plan to eventually test organs from their pigs in baboons. The goal is achieving long-term survival.

Researchers are interested especially in the pigs' hearts and kidneys. In addition, pig pancreatic islets could help insulin-dependent diabetic patients reduce or eliminate their need for insulin injections.

No one knows long how pig organs might last in humans. A pig's normal lifespan is 15 years, but one expert says individual pig organs could last longer.

But if all the unknowns, including the risks of pigs transmitting viruses to humans, can be answered, would Prather accept a heart from a pig should he ever need one?

"If it's either that or dying and I thought it was going to work then yes," he said.

—The Associated Press

### Traces of toxic lead found in Greenland

A new study suggests the ebb and flow of North American industry since the dawn of the Industrial Age can be tracked through lead traces found in a 135-meter (450-foot) ice core drilled in Greenland three years ago.

The core contains a high-resolution record of how much lead settled from the atmosphere onto Greenland between 1750 and 1998. The study says the source of the lead appears to have been factories in the United States and Canada.

Lead emissions began to spike in 1870 and had increased 300 percent just 20 years later, said Joseph McConnell, an associate research professor at the Desert Research Institute in Reno, Nev.

The 1890 pollution levels were higher than previously thought, suggesting intense levels of both industrial activity and pollution, said McConnell, co-author of the study expected to appear in an upcoming issue of the journal Geophysical Research Letters.

Lead levels plummeted during the Depression in the 1930s, then climbed during the industrial boom that followed World War II, according to the study. That period marked the beginning of the widespread use of lead as a gasoline additive.

In the early 1970s, when leaded gasoline began to be phased out and stricter pollution controls were clamped on smokestack emissions, lead levels in Greenland dropped. They fell more than 75 percent by 1985, from what had been peak levels a little more than a decade earlier.

North American lead emissions are near zero today, but lead levels in Greenland remain about three times greater than those seen in ice samples dating to 1870. McConnell said that suggests a source outside North America.

Lead has been detected in Greenland ice samples before. A 1994 study suggested Greenland ice cores contained 2,000-year-old traces of lead pollution attributable to smelting activity by the ancient Greeks and Romans.

The new study offers a higher resolution look and includes about 25 samples for each year covered. Scientists were able to separate out certain spikes in lead levels attributable to volcanic eruptions in nearby Iceland.

—The Associated Press

## Bush proposes new environmental standards

BY SUPRIA RANADE  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

On Nov. 18, the Bush administration announced new environmental standards regarding issues such as oil drilling in the Arctic to endangered species. Much to the chagrin of environmentalists, these proposed changes are drawbacks from key laws such as the Clean Air Act of 1975, which maintained strict air and water quality standards for the American public.

The new laws provide more flexibility to plants and other industries with the intent of sparking more production to mobilize the somewhat stagnant economy. Focusing primarily on energy and oil production, the new standards touch upon several controversial issues that upset many congressmen such as James Jeffords (D-Vermont), the chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

"The Bush administration has announced devastating new regulations that will gut clean air laws, allowing power plants to avoid installing simple anti-pollution equipment when they modernize," said Jeffords, in a recent interview with CNN.

According to the *Washington Post*, energy modernization techniques proposed by the White House possibly include drilling for oil in the Alaskan Arctic National Wildlife refuge, an issue lobbied against by organizations such as Greenpeace since day one of Bush's term. The administration, however,



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*The Alaskan wilderness pictured above is at risk because of new federal policies that may allow extensive drilling for oil.*

argues that the United States needs to decrease its dependence on foreign oil, a central issue in discussions about a possible war on Iraq.

In fact just last year the House approved a version of the president's plan that included \$33.5 billion in tax breaks and other perks aimed at increasing oil and gas modernization, developing new coal-burning technologies and promoting nuclear energy and alternative energy sources.

Lax monetary policies will also extend to the average citizen. According to the *Oregon Daily*, polluters have paid 64 percent less in fines for break-

ing federal environmental rules under the Bush administration than they did in the final two years of the Clinton administration.

"There's a tremendous problem with environmental policy in general and enforcement in particular in this administration," said Sylvia Lowrance, who was the Environmental Protection Agency's acting assistant administrator in charge of enforcement from January 2001 to May 2002, in a recent interview.

Current EPA administrator Christie Whitman did admit in a White House press release that the

administration's collaboration with businesses was a major tenant in the environmental platform.

The Bush administration did seem to be progressing in a less controversial way with the introduction of the Clean Air initiative in February. This new policy proposed several major cuts in greenhouse and power plant emissions. With the new Republican majority in Congress, however, environmental progress is taking a setback.

"We will work to promote effective compliance with environmental standards without weakening our vigorous enforcement of tough laws and regulations," Whitman said in a White House press release.

Despite efforts to relax controls on the environment, the administration's new policies will be met with resistance from many different entities.

According to the *Washington Post*, Democratic congressmen are rallying public criticism of the new propositions in order to maintain a feasible policy that will preserve necessary air and other environmental standards.

"I think the big picture is that we'll have a huge fight on our hands to protect everything we've achieved in the past 30 years," said Gregory Wetstone of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), in a recent interview with the *Washington Post*, said, "Anyone who wants to appeal to the public is going to have to stick to the mainstream on the environment."

### Cloned pigs are able to hold human organs

Professor Randall S. Prather's team at the University of Missouri clones pigs whose descendants could end up on operating room tables in three to five years, their organs harvested for trial transplants into humans, or xenotransplantation.

Every day 17 Americans die while waiting for organ transplants, and the gap between donor organs and the number of people needing them is growing. In the United States the waiting list has more than doubled since

1989.

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—The Associated Press

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## SPORTS

# Track prepares for season

BY MELISSA O'BERG  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

With high expectations preceding them, the Men's and Women's Indoor Track team is looking to begin its season with their first meet this Saturday at the P.G. Sports and Learning Complex hosted by the University of Maryland.

The Blue Jays will run against some of the best track and field programs in the area, including those of University of Maryland, Duke, Villanova, James Madison, Temple, UMBC, E. Carolina and Delaware.

Head Coach Bobby Van Allen commented, "With only having a month of practice so far, we have a long way to go, but this will be a good starting point for us. This year we look to finish in the top four in the conference for both the Men's and Women's team."

The men will be led by Senior High Jumper Rajeev Mahajan, who qualified for NCAA's last year jumping 6'8". Rajeev will have the help of freshmen jumpers Tai Kobayashi and Nick Culbertson.

Van Allen is hoping these three could sweep the high jump at the conference meet. Tai will also contend for All Conference honors in the 55-meter hurdle event.

On the distance side, senior John Onofrey and junior Steve Chu will lead the way with the potential to be All Conference performers in the 1500-meter, 3-kilometer, or 5-kilometer events.

Last year, the distance medley relay set the school record, and this year, senior Jaime Parks will be a crucial part of that relay. Freshman Nick Sousa will also be ready to make the transition from the Cross Country season (along with Onofrey, Chu and Parks) into the Indoor Track season.

The mid-distance group will be led by junior Alex Gochal, when he returns back from a semester abroad in January. Gochal ran 1:57.18 for the 800-meter last year and will be joined by two key mid distance freshmen, Eddie So, and Shane in the open 800-meter and the relays.

Van Allen anticipates that the team "can really do some damage in the 800-meter this year at our conference meet, and I expect both our 4x800 meter and distance medley relays to shatter our school records."

On the sprint side, Hopkins will look to the 2002 Conference Cham-

pion, senior Quinlan Amos, who has potential to take both the 55-meter dash and 200-meter. Quinlan also will be looking to qualify for the NCAA championships in early March.

Van Allen commented, "Freshmen Aaron Landgraf and Andrew Chung have looked impressive in early season practices and should also play a key role."

Several runners from the Football team will also play an integral role in the relay and sprint events. This includes Ben Stopper (200-meter and longjump), Kevin Johnson (sprints), Matt Campbell (200k-400k) Brian Wolcott (sprints and pole vault). Wolcott will lead the pole vaulting squad this year, trying to improve upon his 13'6" performance at last years conference meet, and freshman Ted Esborn could also surprise some people.

"Coach Omar El Sawi has been working hard with our vaulters, who are very excited about using our new

This year we look to finish in the top four in the conference for both the Men's and Women's team.

**—COACH BOBBY VAN ALLEN**

pole vault facilities this year," said Van Allen.

In the throwing events, the team will turn to three freshmen led by Derrick Norgiff, who hopes to be a conference scorer at the championships on March 1-2.

This year, the women will be led by senior co-captain Jackie Evans, who looks to earn another conference championship in the shot put. Sophomore Andrea King, who is currently recovering from injuries, should heal in time to make a big impact at the end of the year.

The Distance runners will be led by juniors Heather Blair (co-captain) and Aline Bernard. Blair finished 11th in the nation her freshman year and should do very well in the conference in the 1500-meter and the distance relays. Bernard is currently studying

abroad and will return to try to be All-Conference as well as possibly qualify for NCAA's in the 5-kilometer event. They will get support from sophomore Maureen Kimsey in the 1500-meter event.

In the mid-distance events, senior co-captain Nikki Gross, will look to qualifying for Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference championships as she did last year in the 800-meter. Gross will also be apart of the 4x800 meter relay, which could shatter a school record. Possibly joining her on the relay team are freshmen Jessica Youdin and Anita Moore.

The sprint corps features a very young but good team. Sophomores Jessica Bylander and Hannah Bracken will make up the heart of the team, participating in events ranging from the 55-meter to 400-meter.

Van Allen commented, "Freshman Joanna Cohen is making nice strides making the transition into the collegiate level, and I am confident she will play a big role for us at the conference championships."

Cohen will also look to score in the long jump. In the hurdles, freshman Ilolochika Emu will be competing for All Conference honors. Pole vaulter Megan Carr will look to earn All Conference Honors, and break the 10 foot barrier.

"We have brought in a lot of new talent and some amazing coaches. We are definitely set up for a stellar season," said freshman distance runner Gabe Tonkin.

The Track and Field team does boast a multitude of coaches, led by head coach Bobby Van Allen. Van Allen graduated from the University of Maryland in 1998. This will be his fourth year coaching at Hopkins. Van Allen was an All-East Cross Country runner and ACC finalist in the 1500-meter.

Also entering his fourth year at Hopkins is throwing coach, Jay Dunn, a graduate of San Diego State. Entering their third years as coaches at Hopkins are pole vault coach Omar El Sawi (West Virginia University) and spring/jumps coach JR Neigwinder (Princeton). Joining the coaching staff this year are assistant distance coaches Kristine Jost (Villanova) and Negasi Gerima (UMBC). Jost was the 1997 NCAA champion in the 3-kilometer. Gerima is trying to qualify for the 2004 Olympic trials in hurdles after being an NCAA qualifier at UMBC.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING SPORTS EVENTS WEEK BEGINNING DEC. 5, 2002

### Women's Fencing

NIWFA Tournament  
Saturday December 7  
Madison, N.J.  
All Day

Northwestern Duals  
January 11-12  
Evanston, Ill.  
TBA

Tournament  
Saturday, January 25  
Baltimore, Md.  
TBA

### Men's Fencing

Northwestern Duals  
January 11-12  
Evanston, Ill.  
TBA

Alumni Meet  
Saturday, January 18  
Baltimore, Md.  
2:00 p.m.

### Men's and Women's Swimming

Miami Invitational  
Thursday December 5  
Oxford, Oh.  
5:00 PM

Denison  
Monday, January 6  
North Palm Beach, Fl.  
TBA

West Chester  
January 6-7  
West Chester, Pa.  
TBA

Mary Washington  
Friday, January 24  
Baltimore, Md.  
4:00 p.m.

### Wrestling

Petroes Tournament  
December 6-7

### Granite, Pa.

Granite, Pa.  
TBA

Citrus Open  
Sunday, December 29  
Ft. Lauderdale, Fl.  
8:00 a.m.

Citrus Open  
Tuesday, December 31  
Ft. Lauderdale, Fl.  
8:00 a.m.

North/South Duals  
Saturday, January 11  
Collegeville, Pa.  
TBA

Gettysburg  
Saturday, January 11  
Gettysburg, Pa.  
10:00 a.m.

Ursinus  
Tuesday, January 21  
Baltimore, Md.  
7:00 p.m.

Kings  
Saturday, January 25  
Scranton, Pa.  
7:00 p.m.

### Men's and Women's Track

MD/PVA Inv  
Saturday December 7  
Landover, Md.  
TBA

West Virginia Invitational  
Saturday, December 11  
Morgantown, W.V.  
TBA

Delaware Open  
Sunday, December 19  
Newark, De.  
TBA

College Classic  
Friday, January 24  
Newport News, Pa.  
TBA

### Women's Basketball

Leb Valley  
Thursday December 5  
Baltimore, Md.  
7:00 p.m.

Gettysburg  
Wednesday, December 11  
Baltimore, Md.  
7:00 p.m.

Marymount  
Saturday, December 14  
Arlington, Va.  
2:00 p.m.

Cal State Monterey Bay  
Thursday, January 2  
Monterey Bay, Ca.  
8:00 p.m.

Nichols  
Friday, January 3  
Monterey Bay, Ca.  
4:00 p.m.

Haverford  
Thursday, January 9  
Baltimore, Md.  
7:00 p.m.

DeSales  
Saturday, January 11  
Baltimore, Md.  
2:00 p.m.

Washington College  
Tuesday, January 14  
Baltimore, Md.  
8:00 p.m.

Bryn Mawr  
Thursday, January 16  
Bryn Mawr, Pa.  
7:00 p.m.

Delaware Valley  
Monday, January 20  
Doylestown, Pa.  
7:00 p.m.

Dickinson  
Wednesday, January 22  
Baltimore, Md.  
8:00 p.m.

Dickinson  
Wednesday, January 22  
Westminster, Md.  
3:00 p.m.

# Druggies, bodybuilders and editors, oh my: Best of 2002

The year 2002 was an eventful one. The Olympics were held in Salt Lake City, the Yankees finally failed to make the World Series, Shaquille O'Neil won yet another title and, of course, the Grizzlies still stunk. The Patriots won the Super Bowl, the Brazilians won the World Cup and a 7'5" man from China arrived in the NBA.

In the mid-distance events, senior co-captain Nikki Gross, will look to qualifying for Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference championships as she did last year in the 800-meter. Gross will also be apart of the 4x800 meter relay, which could shatter a school record. Possibly joining her on the relay team are freshmen Jessica Youdin and Anita Moore.

The sprint corps features a very young but good team. Sophomores Jessica Bylander and Hannah Bracken will make up the heart of the team, participating in events ranging from the 55-meter to 400-meter.

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# Wrestling off to slow start

BY JAMIE SPANGLER  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Despite a rough beginning to their season, the Johns Hopkins Wrestling team is showing drastic improvements and maintains an optimistic outlook on the season.

In their November 25th meet, the Red Dragon Invitational, the members of the wrestling team performed much better than they did on November 9th against York and Wilkes, even if the results did not reflect this improvement.

Overall, the team finished ninth out of 10 teams at its latest meet, but individuals showed a lot of promise and the team as a whole kept the matches close and put up a good fight.

This was the Johns Hopkins wrestling team's first time participating in the Red Dragon Invitational in Oneonta, New York.

This meet is known for pitting the top Division III schools against one another, and the Blue Jays were honored to compete. They made a strong showing in the early rounds, but they were unable to consistently finish off their opponents later on.

The Blue Jays ended up with 49.0 points, just 5.5 points shy of the eighth-place team. One of the wrestling team's captains, junior Mike Yuhaniak, remarked, "At the beginning, we were dominating. I was actually surprised that we finished ninth considering how strong we came out fighting."

Fellow captain, junior Tim Wagner agreed that the outcome of the meet was a poor representation of their success at the meet.

"Things just weren't going our way and we couldn't catch any breaks," he said. "It was just a few early-season mistakes that cost us the meet."

Although the team's showing was not as strong as the Jays would have liked, several team members performed exceptionally well in their respective weight classes.

Sophomore Jason Suslavich went 4-1 in the tournament, good for 11.5 points and third place in the 141-pound weight class. He is off to a great start this season with a team-best 5-2 record. Freshman John Wittenbocker claimed fifth place in the 125-pound class, winning three

out of his five matches.

All three of his wins were on decisions, and they boosted his season record to 4-2. Junior Rob Curry (165 lbs.) took sixth place in his weight class with two victories at the tournament. Junior Karol Gryczynski (285 lbs.) also won two matches and finished in sixth place in his class. Thus, individuals showed much promise and made significant strides at this competition.

Wagner was most impressed by the team's stamina, which he attributed to the rigorous conditioning the wrestlers have undergone this season. He noted that many of the matches were decided late in the third period or even in overtime, causing endurance to play a large role in determining the victor. Collectively, the team displayed its persistence and dedication at the Red Dragon Invitational.

"This was the best I've seen us wrestle as a team," commented Yuhaniak. "We have improved a lot since our first meet and if we step it up a notch, we can be a very competitive

We have improved a lot since our first meet and if we step it up a notch, we can be a very competitive team this year.

—MIKE YUHANIAK

team this year."

Yuhaniak was comparing the team's showing at the Dragon Invitational to their performance at their first meet, a tri-match against Wilkes University and York College.

Last year, the Jays lost by 35-point margins to both of these schools, but they held their own against Wilkes University and York College.

The Blue Jays kept pace with Wilkes throughout their meet, but came up just short, losing 24-15. Senior co-captain Brian Frank (133

lbs.), freshman Wittenbocker, and sophomores Suslavich and Tony Dambro (197 lbs.) all earned victories for Johns Hopkins in this inaugural meet.

Hopkins fell 31-6 to York in the subsequent match. Gryczynski and Wagner (165 lbs.) were the only ones to win their matches against this opponent.

Wagner conceded, "York simply got the momentum early on and never let up."

Still, the Blue Jays refuse to hang their heads over their slow start and have set ambitious goals for themselves this season. The team came into this season with high hopes after posting its best record since the 1993-1994 season last year.

The Blue Jays finished 8-9 in the 2001-2002 season and came in fourth place in the Centennial Conference with a 2-3 league record. The Blue Jays have been making significant strides since Kirk Salvo assumed the role of head coach four years ago. The progress of the team has been furthered by the contributions of their dedicated staff of assistant coaches.

The bulk of the credit, though, must go to the individual wrestlers who have worked hard throughout the year to improve themselves for the season.

Tim Wagner praised the team for how hard it has trained and felt that the team showed much promise at the first couple of competitions. He was especially impressed by the talent of the freshmen.

"They are eliminating their mistakes and adjusting to college well. Our recruiting system is getting better and better each year," he stated.

The Wrestling team's next meet will be the Petroses Tournament in Granite, Pa. this Friday and Saturday.

In past years, other teams from the Centennial Conference have competed in this tournament, so the Blue Jays are hoping to get a taste of their conference foes early on in the season, even though their first conference match will not take place until mid-January.

Wagner explained, "We're trying to get as many matches in as we can early in the season so that we can get comfortable before the matches start to count."

# Men's Basketball looks ahead to upcoming conf. contests

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12  
and 500 rebound mark along the way. Adams is the 11th Blue Jay to score 1,000 and the 10th to record 500 rebounds.

The game proved a close match with several lead changes along the way. However, with 13 minutes left and Hopkins leading 39-36, the Blue Jays ran away with the game, outscoring the Gophers 28-17 the rest of the way. Senior center Mike Blaine added 10 points and three rebounds for the Jays who dominated the interior play.

The Hopkins basketball season started well as the team won their eight Blue Jay Invitational, played November 22nd and 23rd here at Homewood. The four-team tournament also included Trinity, Emory & Henry and Elmhurst Universities.

The championship match vs. Trinity was a close game the whole way through. Neither team managed to run away with the game despite scoring streaks of 10-2 for Trinity and 9-1 for Hopkins. It took a last second three-pointer from Jay Kreider to put away Tigers, 50-49.

Kreider finished with game-highs of 18 points and four steals. Adams finished with 11 points and eight rebounds. Senior guard Brendan Kamm added seven points. In their first game of the tournament and of the season, the Blue Jays defeated the Emory & Henry Wasps, 94-84.

Adams set career highs with 29 points and 20 rebounds as he dominated the inside post for JHU. Kreider contributed 21 points and nine rebounds, while Blaine led the game with seven assists to go with his eight points.

Hopkins finished the game hitting

an impressive nine of 15 three-point attempts, led by Kamm who hit three of his four shots from behind the arc as he finished with 11 points.

Kreider was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player for his stellar leadership and ability during the weekend, while Steve Adams was honored as a member of the All-Tournament team.

The Blue Jays look to surpass the expectations of all who picked them to finish second in the conference. The first conference game is Saturday at 1 p.m. vs. Haverford.

# Football wins, 24-21

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12

Hopkins capped off the drive with a 10-yard touchdown pass from Merrell to sophomore receiver Brian Wolcott, giving them a 24-7 lead.

In the fourth quarter, the Bobcats came alive, but it was too late. After intercepting a Blue Jay pass, Frostburg drove 50 yards to score their second touchdown, this one on a 14-yard

pass. Later in the quarter, the Bobcats recovered a Hopkins fumble, but the Jays got the ball back four plays later when Brian Cook recovered his second fumble on the day. Late in the game, the Bobcats engineered another scoring drive, this time scoring on a 21-yard touchdown pass with just 18 seconds left in the game, and cutting Hopkins lead to 24-21. Frostburg then attempted an onside kick, but the ball was recovered by junior Jonas Nelson, sealing the Jays' victory.

Merrell was named the game's Most Valuable Player, as he had a hand in all three Hopkins touchdowns, and was 17 of 33 for 190 yards passing. Another big contribution came from Lyons, who ran for 112 yards on the day. Senior linebacker Mike Little led the defense with 6 tackles, a pass breakup and a sack.

Against Frostburg, the Jays dominated the rushing game, with 213 yards compared to the Bobcats' 53.

"We did what we've been doing all season, going all out on every play," said Little, "It feels great to end the season with a big win like this one."

With this win, Hopkins won the ECAC Southwest Championship, their second title of the season. The Jays also set a school record for most wins in a season, as they finished 9-2.

# W.B-ball record at 3-1

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12

so successful for the Hop. The College of New Jersey immediately took an 11-2 lead in the first six and a half minutes.

They increased this lead to 12 four times, leading at halftime with 33-23. With renewed vengeance, the Jays commenced the second half with a 12-2 run.

Burkholder tied it up with a lay-up at 35-35. The Lions responded with a 9-2 run to take a 44-37 advantage, but the Lady Jays rallied once again to tie it up at 52-52 with 5:37 remaining in the game.

JHU took its first lead of the second half at 55-54 on a free throw by

Burkholder, but TCNJ regained the lead on two free throws. They then took a 60-55 lead with back-to-back baskets and led 64-59 with 29 seconds left in the game.

Darling hit a short jumper and was fouled to cut the lead to 64-61. The Jays were able to get the rebound off of Darling's missed free throw, but were unable to tie the game with a last second three point shot.

Although Hopkins did not win the championship of the tournament, they impressively had two players named to the All-Tournament team. Myers and Felix were named to the All-Tournament Team for Hopkins.

# Ravens rise to challenge, 'Skins fall

If you had asked most football fans before the start of the season whether the Redskins or the Ravens would be the Baltimore-Washington region's best NFL team, you would have been hard-pressed to find anyone who didn't pick the Washington Redskins.

All of the ingredients for a successful team looked to be in place. The anticipation of new coach Steve Spurrier, along with a defense comprised of a bevy of former first round draft picks and headed by defensive maven Marvin Lewis looked to be only the beginning.

Then add the fact that the team, even after losing their first five games last year, had battled back in the second half of the season to make themselves a playoff contender and there looked to be many good things on the horizon.

Contrast that with the rebuilding Baltimore Ravens. They lost key players, Lewis defected and the team was thought to be in disarray. They were left without a proven starting quarterback with the departure of Elvis Grbac and with a running back recovering from major knee surgery. The departure of other veterans was thought to seal the deal.

But now, with the season winding down and only five games remaining, the tale of these two teams is one of divergent paths, but not the one that many expected.

The much-favored Redskins attack has faltered on nearly every front. On offense, the debut of Spurrier's much ballyhooed Fun "n" Gun offense has been mostly disappointing.

Despite sporadic flashes of brilliance, like in the Redskins' opening

day, 31-23 victory over the Arizona Cardinals, in which quarterback Shane Matthews was named player of the week, there have been more bad times than good ones.

The defense hasn't been great either. The Redskins have been embarrassed in front of national television audiences like when they were drubbed on Monday Night Football, 37-7 in the second week of the year. A week ago today, on Thanksgiving, Washington lost an embarrassing game to Dallas, 27-20, marking the team's 10th straight loss to their division rival.

On the other side, the Ravens



ERIC RIDGE

IN THE GAME

have been full of positive surprises, so much that their success seems almost dumbfounding. Their off-season departures have been compounded by injuries and yet they still have had a respectable year. Pro

Bowl linebacker Ray Lewis is out for the year with a shoulder injury, as is defensive end Michael McCrary with an arthritic knee.

Their quarterback, Johnny Redmond, went out to injury, but proven veteran Jeff Blake stepped in and filled the spot nicely. Running back Jamal Lewis, a question mark after following his strong rookie year with an injury that preventing him from playing all of last year, has been stellar, eclipsing the thousand-yard mark already with over a month of the season remaining.

Suddenly, after their 27-23 win over the hapless Cincinnati Bengals on Sunday, the Ravens have won three of their last four and are 6-6 while the Redskins have lost three of four and are 5-7, and while one team is charging, the other is nearly eliminated from playoff contention, and is sulking over unfulfilled promise.

In all likelihood, the Redskins won't make the playoffs this year. The Ravens might not make the playoffs either, but they sure have a better chance.

But even if the Ravens aren't playing in January, at least they'll be able to say that they finished strong and never gave up on a season that looked to be doomed from the start.

The Redskins might not be so lucky. After the loss to Dallas, the Dallas running back Troy Hambrick shed some light on the Redskins' mess of a season.

Describing the Thanksgiving debacle in which the Redskins squandered a second-half lead, he told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram: "You witnessed a Redskins defense that would quit. When they are ahead, they play,

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The much-anticipated Redskins attack has faltered on nearly every front.

harder. Once they get behind, you see a bunch of star guys over there just quit."

It seems like that sums up the Redskins entire season rather nicely, too. Suddenly, the Burgundy and Gold has lost some of its luster because of another disappointing year.

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**CALENDAR**

SEE PAGE A10 FOR A LISTING OF  
SPORTS EVENTS



# SPORTS

## Jays beat Frostburg in ECAC bowl



**Junior quarterback George Merrell threw for two touchdowns and scored another on a rushing play in Hopkins' victory over Frostburg State.**

BY BILL BLISS  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

In dramatic fashion, Johns Hopkins Football narrowly defeated the Frostburg State Bobcats 24-21 in the ECAC Southwest Championship Bowl, holding off a last-second charge by the Bobcats who nearly erased a 17-point deficit. In addition to winning the championship, the Blue Jays set a school record with their ninth win this season.

The Jays kicked off to open the game, and the defense promptly forced the Bobcats to go three and out. The Hopkins offense came out strong, driving down the field on their first possession and taking a 3-0 lead on a 32-yard field goal by junior kicker Chris Smolyn.

The next few minutes of the game saw strong defense from both teams. With about two minutes left, the Jays

defense forced Frostburg to punt, and on the ensuing possession, the Hopkins offense began its first scoring drive. The Jays drove down the field on successful screen plays and tough running up the middle. As time ran out in the first quarter, the Jays had moved inside the Frostburg red zone.

A few plays into the second quarter, junior quarterback George Merrell scored the Jays' first touchdown of the day with a one-yard run.

Hopkins went for a two-point conversion, and made the score 11-0 with a pass from freshman holder Steve Eno to junior receiver Jason Lehman.

On their next possession, Frostburg came right back to score with a six-yard touchdown pass in a quick drive that took less than two minutes. The Jays punted on their next possession, and Frostburg began to drive up the field again. How-

ever, freshman defensive end Brian Cook recovered a Frostburg fumble on the Hopkins 42, setting up the next Hopkins score. The offense drove 58 yards in nine plays and

their next possession, Frostburg was driving up the field, but was stopped by the Hopkins defense on a fourth down at the Jays' 31.

Later in the half, the Bobcats made it all the way to the Hopkins one-yard line, but senior cornerback Mark Robinson prevented a score by intercepting a Frostburg pass with less than a minute left in the half.

The Jays received the ball to open the second half, and sophomore Adam Cook gave Hopkins greatfield position with a 30-yard kick return that put the Jays at midfield.

The offense was given a boost by a big play by Eno, as he caught a pass from Merrell and took it 18 yards down the field for a first down. A few plays later, freshman running back T.J. Lyons broke through the line for a 22-yard run, giving the Jays a first and goal from the 10.

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

HOME	Frostburg State	21
VISITOR	Hopkins	24

scored on a 10-yard pass from Merrell to Lehman. With less than seven minutes remaining in the half, Hopkins was up 18-7, and excellent defensive play by the Jays kept the Bobcats off the board for the rest of the half. On

the next possession, Frostburg was driving up the field, but was stopped by the Hopkins defense on a fourth down at the Jays' 31.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

HOME	Hopkins	58
VISITOR	Trinity	49

host University of Rochester Yellowjackets — ranked third nationally.

Although they jumped out to a quick 22-15 lead 11 minutes into the first half, Hopkins couldn't keep their sharp shooting up all half and went into the break down 32-27 after a 15-0 run by the Yellowjackets. Rochester kept the momentum in the second half.

After extending their lead to 47-38 with 11 minutes remaining, the Yellowjackets outscored the Blue Jays 12-0 over a four minute stretch, putting the game out of reach. Adams and Marquez led the Jays with 11 points each.

Steve Adams' play in the Invitational against Rochester and Calvin earned him a spot on the All-Tour-

HOME	Hopkins	58
VISITOR	Trinity	49

nament team. Adams scored 41 points and pulled down 13 rebounds over the two days.

"Steve is a true leader for us — a real winner," commented Coach Nelson on the stellar play of his senior co-captain and leading scorer.

Despite his accomplishments at Rochester, Adams' greatest game may have come Nov. 26 in a 67-53 home win against the Goucher Gophers. In the game, Adams recorded team highs of 15 points and eight rebounds, crossing the 1,000 point

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

Friday night's game was a different story than Saturday's victory. The Blue Jays were routed 72-48 in the first round of the Invitational by the

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

## Hopkins gets third at Holiday Inn Invitational



**Junior point guard Chris Ganen dribbles the ball forward to lead the team to an offensive attack.**

BY SEAN HEFFERNAN  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

The Hopkins Men's basketball team finished third at the Holiday Inn Invitational this past weekend in Rochester, New York, and in the process ran their record to 4-1.

"So far this year we are right where we were hoping to be. By being 4-1 at this point of the season it gives the team confidence," said senior forward and co-captain Steve Adams.

The team's positive attitude was on display Saturday evening as the Blue Jays defeated No. 15 ranked

Calvin College Knights 85-84 in the tournament's consolation game. The Jays were led by Adams who pulled down 10 rebounds and posted a career best 30 points.

Adams' previous best was 29 points, recorded earlier this season in a win over Emory & Henry College. In this close game, no lead proved safe. Hopkins held a comfortable nine point lead with eight minutes to go, only to see it fade over the next four minutes as Calvin took a 76-75 lead after a 12-2 run.

The Blue Jays then turned to junior guard Kevin Marquez (12 points),

who delivered a lay-up and a three-pointer on JHU's next two possessions. But with only a minute left, Calvin drew within one point after a free throw. Over the final 28 seconds the Jays hit five of six free throw attempts to seal the game — Marquez and senior guard Jay Kreider (16 points) both converted each of their two free throws. A Knight player then hit a three-pointer as time expired to pull the final score to a single point.

Friday night's game was a different story than Saturday's victory. The Blue Jays were routed 72-48 in the first round of the Invitational by the

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

## Women's B-ball off to promising start

BY MARISA BALDWIN

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Both Grant Hill and Zydrunas Ilgauskas underwent their ankle surgeries at Union Memorial Hospital.

and was able to hit 13 of the 24 shots she took.

Randall bettered her previous career high by three points as she shot 7-of-13 from the field and 6-of-10 free throws. She also added six rebounds, while Darling and Felix both had the game high of nine rebounds. Shepler had 10 points and a career high of seven rebounds.

Myers also had a career high, with seven assists. She weighed in by saying, "We came out slow in the beginning of this game because we were not expecting them to be as good as they played. They really improved from last year, and that completely caught us off guard. I think as a team we were successful in recovering from that initial shock and pulling out the win, but Ashanna gave us that extra 'umph' we needed in the second half."

HOME	Roanoke	70
VISITOR	Hopkins	83
HOME	Hopkins	94
VISITOR	St. Mary's	60

Junior Trista Synder added, "It was impressive how well the team moved the ball around in the second half. The passing was extremely fluid across the floor."

The Lady Jays also held their 11th Annual Blue Jay Invitational here at Hopkins in Goldfarb Gymnasium on the weekend of November 23rd and 24th. Four teams participated, including the Jays. Hopkins first faced St. Mary's College in the semi-final round.

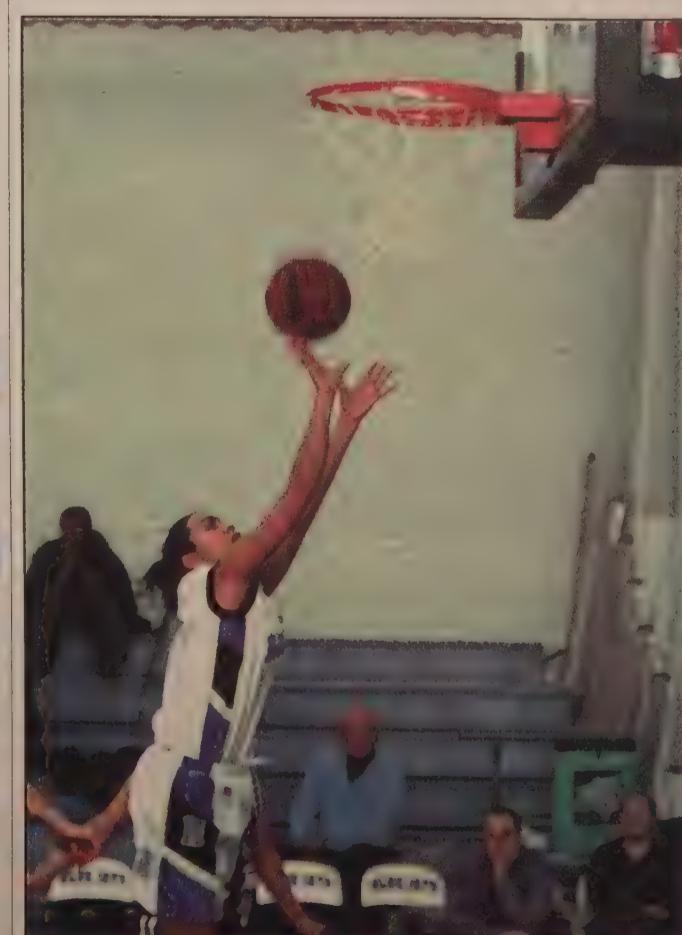
Senior center Kathy Darling set a school and Blue Jay Invitational record by making all 12 of her shots. Her efforts helped the Jays to win by 94-60.

Darling hit all seven of her first half shots, aiding the 46-23 halftime lead. Myers added 20 points and a game high six assists, while Felix tallied 10 points and five assists. Shepler also added nine points and four assists, and Randall contributed nine points.

With this victory the Lady Jays moved into the final round against the College of New Jersey.

Unfortunately, this game was not

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11



**Sophomore guard Ashley Felix elevates to get off a shot.**

NATHAN BATES/NEWS-Letter

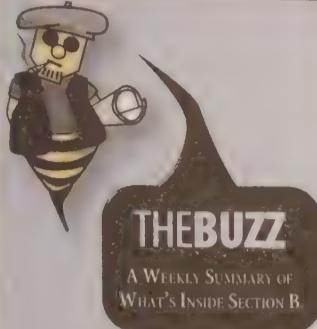
# The B Section

FEATURES, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT AND MORE! • DECEMBER 5, 2002

THE JOHNS HOPKINS  
NEWS-LETTER

**Quote of the Week**  
“The Hopkins Security force could defeat the Haitian military.”

—Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Steven David



## FOCUS

Just in time for finals week, our Stress Focus shows some interesting ways to unwind. • B2

## FEATURES

It's all sunshine this week, whether it's dining at the California Pizza Kitchen, building homes in Miami, or your Biology teacher's bright smile. • B3

We've traveled east this week. First stop is the Jersey shore; then we show you how your bad exam scores may just be a case of bad Feng Shui. Pass the Tums. • B4

Hopkins has a new entrance essay this year. Get an inside look at the question and Feature's own response. Then it's a very special Chanukah edition of Hot at Hopkins. Screw the mistletoe, pass the Maneschewitz. • B5

## A & E

If you prefer things "Shaken, not stirred," then we guarantee that this page will be up your alley. Also, check out our reviews of the Guster concert at Loyola and an old favorite, Jacko's Off the Wall. • B6

Speaking of the so-called "King of Pop," editor Courtney Rice presents a challenger to the throne. Plus, read about Disney's *Treasure Planet* and MTV's new compilation CD. • B7

Tired of the usual sticky-sweet Christmas fare on television? Jonathan Groce shows you some refreshing alternatives. Be sure to read our reviews of *Solaris* and *Ararat*, too. • B8

## CALENDAR

Care to learn how to make a gourmet gingerbread house? Partake in some holiday festivities in Baltimore before heading home for winter break. • B10-11

## QUIZ

Think you know a lot about religions? Test your knowledge in this week's quiz. • B12

## Baltimore finally has a reason to BELIEVE



Areas like Baltimore Street's Red Light District have seen a significant decline in drug use and violent crime.

DENISE TERRY/NEWS-LETTER

The first in a two part series showcasing Baltimore's struggle against crime, and what the city is doing about it.

BY MAANY PEYVAN  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

style in front of a city tavern. Newman, 37, was leaving Joe's Tavern on Dundalk Ave. with a girlfriend, when he was approached by two men who began shooting without saying a word. The men then stood over Newman's body, and continued to fire. Newman died half an hour later at Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. Police said the crime was in retaliation for Newman's testimony against two men convicted of wounding him during an ambush last year.

"We are more accustomed to reading about this sort of thing in Colombia or some other place than in the United States," O'Malley told *The Baltimore Sun*. "With each of these, we need to become more resolute and not less. ... The best we can do is to send these sociopath predators to jail for as long as possible."

Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley spoke a week later at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in East Baltimore.

"To those who push and peddle this hate — to those who would murder these innocent — you think you have purchased half of us and intimidated the rest, but you are as wrong as you are foolish and cruel, for you have left us the shining memory of these young martyrs, and so long as Baltimore remembers the Dawson's, we will never surrender to your hate. Not one neighborhood, not one block, not one house."

In the early morning of Nov. 23, off-duty detective Thomas Newman was shot, execution-

style in front of a city tavern. Newman, 37, was leaving Joe's Tavern on Dundalk Ave. with a girlfriend, when he was approached by two men who began shooting without saying a word. The men then stood over Newman's body, and continued to fire. Newman died half an hour later at Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. Police said the crime was in retaliation for Newman's testimony against two men convicted of wounding him during an ambush last year.

Suburban growth and the so-called "white flight" contributed to Baltimore's urban decline. Even today, it is estimated nearly 1,000 people move away each month. In the earlier part of the 20th century, Baltimore accounted for half of Maryland's population, and its highest per capita income. Today, Baltimore comprises 13 percent of the population, the lowest per capita income and the highest rates of poverty and crime.

Efforts in the middle of the century at urban renewal were a showcase of epic trial and error. Slum removal in the '40s only left the poor with no place to go. High rise housing erected in the '50s only heightened crime.

It was in the '70s when then Mayor Donald Schaefer made progress in revitalizing neighborhoods and developing the Harborplace. It was also during the '70s that the spurring drug trade took a stranglehold on Baltimore, a grip that continues to plague the city. But for the first time in years the city is optimistic, the mayor's words are hopeful, and the city believes that justice will be delivered.

Since O'Malley took office in 1999, murders are down 20 percent. Baltimore is now fifth in the nation in heroin, down from first two years ago. Baltimore is ranked first in reduction of violent crime

and drug-related emergency room visits and third in reduction of murder. The mayor is in a race to save a city torn apart by the twin afflictions of drug use and violent crime, and with an approval rating around 80 percent, he has Baltimore's support.

Since his election, O'Malley has launched programs that have slowly helped bring back a city thought lost to the perils of drugs and violence. As a councilman, he had seen the effects that Zero Tolerance had on New York and had told Baltimore that if they were tough on crime, results would follow.

The strategy is based on the "Broken Windows" theory developed by academics George Kelling and James Wilson. The theory states that there is a link between disorder and crime. Visible signs of decay — such as litter, broken windows and abandoned housing — signals public disinterest. Fear of crime rises and community members flee. The community's ability to maintain order is undermined and decline follows. Under the assumption that preventing a neighborhood's decline is easier than rescuing a fallen community, the theory demands that even minor offenses be pursued with the same ardor as serious

crimes.

O'Malley, along with police chief Ed Norris, also implemented Citistat, an accountability program also pioneered in New York. The program is a statistics-based system used to direct law enforcement to the city's most dangerous areas and has them report on their progress during weekly accountability sessions. O'Malley expanded the program to every city agency from Public Works to Health. The program allowed the city to take a strategic approach to Baltimore's problems, and review their efficacy week to week.

But O'Malley's most ambitious project is a call upon the city itself. The "Believe" campaign was conceived as an appeal to citizens to do their part to save Baltimore. Television commercials aired in the spring showcasing brutal but honest depictions of Baltimore: prostitution, poverty, junkies shooting heroin, boarded-up row houses, a young girl lying dead in the street.

At the end of the commercial a word appeared in bright, white letters. It said, "Believe." The clip is haunting, but its message is clear: Baltimore must stand as a community against drugs. Baltimore must believe.



Citistat helps agencies like Waste Management allocate resources.

## Eight Crazy Nights doesn't quite spin theater-goers' dreidels

BY REBECCA SHIELDS  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Adam Sandler is one of those guys you just do not want to give up on. You keep paying to watch his movies in the hopes of finding the humor that once was unique. But, if his newest film, *Eight Crazy Nights*, is any indication of Sandler's future, it may finally be time to accept Sandler for what we all fail to admit: a man way past his prime. This newest movie is most likely the worst movie of the entire holiday season, perhaps even the dumbest movie of this year so far, and we can all thank Sandler for the waste of money.

The plot, or what little story there is, attempts to follow a Scrooge-esque idea, starring a 33-year-old drunk, Davey Stone, who is committed to ruining the holiday spirit for all citizens in the town of Dukesberry.

The audience really could care less as to why Stone has turned to such destructive devices, but — not to worry — Sandler makes sure that Stone is viewed in a sympathetic light by explaining the trigger of Stone's alcoholism.

Ultimately, Stone learns to value the holiday and value the relationships in his life through the help of an elder mentor, Whitey, who is also voiced by Sandler in a high-pitched wail which is agonizing to sit through.

Eventually Stone's life turns into a complete fantasy as he falls in love with his middle-school sweetheart and all is resolved.

Perhaps intrigue arises over the approach to produce a film using animation and musical sequences, but one can only recognize that such creativity is merely to counteract the complete lack of substance in the movie.

The crude humor is entirely unnecessary; specifically the recurring reindeer who eat human feces and laugh until they have uncontrollable diarrhea. It may provide some sick pleasure, but it is the ultimate embarrassment of the amateur and immature production combined with the gross-out factor that leads to audience laughter.

Any attempts to be cynical or satirize society are completely lost on the audience, particularly one such scene in a shopping mall, in which stores such as Foot Locker, GNC and Dunkin' Donuts are sequenced in a major musical number.

The question is whether Sandler is mocking commercialism or merely playing the role as a puppet for the advertising industry.

Underneath the unfinished, crude, unnecessary jokes about sex, bodily functions and drinking is apparently some sort of message to the younger audience, perhaps about the value of



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES

# STRESS FOCUS

## Worrying isn't only cause of stress

BY JEFF KATZENSTEIN  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

If you've taken the stress self-test on this page, you probably have one question on your mind: How can a person get stress from a vacation? Isn't the point of a vacation to reduce stress? How can good things cause stress? According to these quizzes, being fired causes stress. Sounds about right. But why does an "outstanding personal achievement" cause stress? How can a person's stress level be so high when he or she has very few "problems" in his or her life?

Perhaps the real "problem," according to <http://www.teachhealth.com>, is that the popular concept of stress is incorrect. Sure, we've all heard that being neurotic about everything in life will cause your hair to fall out and worry lines on your forehead before the age of 30. Your friends always told you when you tried to stay in during the weekend not to work so hard or you'll give yourself a heart attack.

Even the term "stressing" over something means worrying about something so much you almost drive yourself crazy.

The most common misconception about stress is that the list of stressors is not only comprised of things that make you worry. To the human body, any change, whether good or bad, causes stress. Even an imagined change can cause stress. Sure, the worst things, like a death in the family or a divorce cause the most stress, as shown by the self-test. However, those little changes in your life can really add up the amount of stress that you put your body through every day.

So what's really going on when you undergo a physical, environmental, emotional, or imagined change in your life? As we all know, the nerve cells in the brain receive trillions of messages every day, relaying all sorts of information from one cell to another. Cells can receive both "good messengers" and "bad messengers." As long as the ratio of good messen-

gers to bad messengers is balanced, your body can go on handling all the messages your brain wants to send. However, once the stressors are put on your body, fewer good messengers are sent around the brain, and more bad messengers are received. It is then that people begin to experience the anxiety, fatigue, insomnia and aches and pains that are commonly associated with stress.

Don't start worrying too much. You go to Hopkins. This probably means that you are one of the lucky ones who has a relatively high stress tolerance. Stress tolerance is mostly genetic and allows people to keep making good messengers even when the bad messenger level is high.

Like many of the students here at Hopkins, people with high stress tolerances can take plenty of stress and in many cases seem to crave it. For the not-so-lucky ones who have low stress tolerances, overstress is a serious issue. Although you may be feeling the effects of stress, especially during finals week, about 10 percent of the population feels like that all the time.

So what exactly are the "good messengers" that your brain is sending? Surely your orgo professor wouldn't dare call anything "good messengers." Some examples of good messengers include serotonin (helps you sleep), noradrenaline (gives you energy), and dopamine (sets your pleasure and pain levels). Thus, when the firing levels of these three chemicals in your brain decrease, the body experiences sleeplessness, lack of energy, depression, and physical aches and pains. This in turn can cause anxiety over the body malfunctions, and this makes them worse. This is where the correlation between stress and heart disease is made.

Think of stress as a disruption in your body's normal chemical cycles. So, in the coming weeks, while you're "stressing" over your finals, realize that going home for a restful "vacation" will cause stress as well. The key is to not to pull so many surprises on your body that it doesn't know what to do.



Sometimes you just feel like you have too much work to handle.

NINA LOPATINA/NEWS-Letter

THE STRESS SELF-TEST		
		We know you're busy with piles of work, not to mention the fact that you just found out your boyfriend has been cheating on you with the drive-thru lady at the local Taco Bell. Just how stressed are you on a quantitative scale? Take this test and then maybe people can really sympathize with you.
(Adapted from the "Social Readjustment Rating Scale" by Thomas Holmes and Richard Rahe)	STRESS	EVENT VALUES
1. Death of spouse, parent, boyfriend/girlfriend	100	18.Trouble at school 40
2. Divorce (of yourself or your parents)	65	19.Serious health problem of family member 40
3. Puberty	65	20.Working while attending school 35
4. Pregnancy (or causing pregnancy)	65	21.Working more than 40 hours per week 35
5. Marital separation or breakup with boyfriend/girlfriend	60	22.Changing course of study 35
6. Jail term or probation	60	23.Change in frequency of dating 35
7. Death of family member (other than spouse, parent or boyfriend/girlfriend)	60	24.Sexual adjustment problems (confusion of sexual identity) 35
8. Broken engagement	55	25.Gain of new family member (new baby born or parent remarries) 35
9. Engagement	50	26.Change in work responsibilities 35
10. Serious personal injury or illness	45	27.Change in financial 30
11. Marriage	45	28.Death of a close friend (not a family member) 30
12. Entering college or beginning next level of school (starting junior high or high school)	45	29.Change to a different kind of work 30
13. Change in independence or responsibility	45	30.Change in number of arguments with mate, family or friends 30
14. Any drug and/or alcohol use	45	31.Sleep less than eight hours per night 25
15. Fired at work or expelled from school	45	32.Trouble with in-laws or boyfriend's or girlfriend's family 25
16. Change in alcohol or drug use	45	33.Outstanding personal achievement (awards, grades, etc.) 25
17. Reconciliation with mate, family, or boyfriend/girlfriend (getting back together)	40	34.Mate or parents start or stop working 20
		35.Begins or ends school 20
		36.Change in living conditions (visitors in the home, remodeling house, change in roommates) 20
		TOTAL SCORE= _____
		So what does this test mean? If you scored 250 or greater, even with normal stress tolerance, you may be overstressed. People with low stress tolerance may be overstressed at scores as low as 150.
		Source: <a href="http://www.teachhealth.com">http://www.teachhealth.com</a>

## Why we're so stressed

Even before we got to Hopkins we were warned about the ungodly workload. It's not as if it's a big secret or a mean surprise to be discovered after signing away thousands of dollars of tuition. We all sat on our beds at home senior year of high school reading the college guides, letting it really sink in that Baltimore would soon become home. I remember reading in the Princeton Review College Guide to "Bring an extra pillow for library sleepovers."

Thus, we come to JHU knowing that a certain level of dedication towards scholarship is unavoidable. Yet after a few semesters it seems critical that the question is posed whether this level of work causes an unhealthy amount of stress.

Each semester there are two significant periods where we suffer both physically and mentally. During midterms our professors seem to forget we take other classes besides theirs and during finals they all somehow seem to get scheduled in such a problematic way that we find ourselves running from that orgo test to down two espresso shots before bio.

Clearly these caffeine fixes are not good for our bodies, and don't even come close to making up for lost sleep. Our minds and memories suffer as a result and we end up fighting our systems to cram in just a bit more information.

When walking around campus this last week of classes, it is hard to avoid the tired faces and anxious brows of students lost in thought. Our minds have gone from peaceful and balanced to mental "to-do" lists on a repetitive spin cycle. Sophomore Becky Zerzan told a friend recently, "I'm so busy and stressed that I don't even have time to go to the supermarket." Is this the kind of situation the school administration wants for its students, and furthermore, is there any turning back from the high level of intensity we have grown to know and loathe?

Another anxious student, Joshua Rowe, explained, "I have five final papers due this Friday. I'd say this has been one of the hardest weeks of my life." Perhaps the situation here at JHU is no different than at any other top University in the country but that certainly doesn't make it acceptable.

Is there a way that our professors could help to lessen the stress level while still teaching a topic rigorously? This Hopkins student thinks there is. Though it may be slightly more inconvenient for the professors in terms of grading and test-writing, it would help the students significantly if they were given more choice involved in their test taking and paper writing.

Just to set the record straight, choice does not mean the option whether or not to take an examination, but rather a few different times for that mid-term or final to be given or due. Thus, the workload wouldn't have to be significantly decreased, but the student could balance the assignment with his or her other class loads so as to lessen the stress level of multiple things to be completed simultaneously.

Why should students have to stress about everything at once and risk their physical and mental health in the process? Granted, this is not just a problem at Hopkins, but rather is a problem that every college student faces every single semester. For the sake of health for every college student, some changes need to be made.

Another option might be the inclusion of one more examination or paper a semester, with the choice of not having to complete one over the course of the class. This way, if a student finds him or herself in a bind because of other responsibilities, that test or paper could be forfeited.

The same way most professors give several choices for essays on midterms and final exams, the tests or papers would be different in order to prevent cheating. This certainly would not be difficult to do, considering most professors recycle old exams anyway.

The point of this article is not to whine about the academic workload of Hopkins. It is something that should be expected at a top university. However, spacing out exams and papers would not only reduce stress that students experience, but would also allow for better knowledge of academic material because students could concentrate on one thing at a time.

### WAYS YOU CAN RELIEVE STRESS AT HOPKINS

1



PHOTOS BY NEWS-Letter STAFF



1. Choke the chicken — A popular way of relieving the stress caused by long, hard programming assignments, Computer Science majors are particularly familiar with this form of relaxation. Don't worry — no chickens were harmed in this photo.

2. Host a freestyle rap competition — With the popularity of *8 Mile*, millions of Eminem wannabes have taken to blowing off steam by holding hip-hop competitions fueled by cleverly worded disses and phat beats. Here, a sophomore shouts out to his suburban Delaware homies.

3. Wait for 4:20 — Nobody has ever told me why this particular time is so important; all I know is that every day at this time, I can see a huge plume of smoke rise from a certain house on Canterbury Road.

4. Go for a stroll — Why not appreciate the artwork in the Sculpture Garden on your next study break?

EMILY MAYER  
GUEST COLUMN

# FEATURES

## Habitat making Baltimore livable



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.JHU.EDU/HABITAT

Habitat plans to finish their fifth house this February, located in Sandtown.

BY KARINA SCHUMACHER-VILLISANTE  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

So, you know you want to do something good for humanity, but you don't know what. All you know is that there is this really long time in January when you will not be doing anything and, if all goes as planned, you do not expect to spend that month in a cold environment.

Well, although you can continue looking for activities that will fulfill your first three weeks, save that last week for Habitat for Humanity.

The Hopkins chapter of Habitat for Humanity is planning to participate in a "Collegiate Challenge" trip to Miami, Fla. during the final week of intersession. Twelve people will be going on the trip to Florida, all of whom are going to help "work on houses for ... low income families," according to David Stout, Vice President of Habitat for Humanity.

Unfortunately, all 12 students have already been picked for this trip. Not to worry, however, because there are still more opportunities for you young and eager people to get down and dirty with those who need your labor.

Habitat for Humanity plans on taking another Collegiate Challenge during Spring Break of this scholastic year at Sumter, S.C. Again, 12 students will travel to the location to help work on houses. The applications for the Spring Break trip have not yet been distributed. They will be available in the Saturday Sandtown building.

Applicants do not need to have been previously involved with Habitat. All they really care about is getting "people who are responsible and want to work with us," says Stout.

They do, however, look for three to four people who are 21 years of age since they get vans for the trips. They don't care about GPA, so really the events are open to anyone. More will be available about the applications either at their general meetings or on their web site at <http://www.jhu.edu/~habitat>.

In the past, Habitat for Humanity has engaged in other fun trips, often in Florida. Last year, for example, they went to Jacksonville, Fla. They worked alongside with Habitat for Humanity Jacksonville and were con-

sidered one of the most "productive groups they'd ever seen in 10 years," said Stout.

Stout describes the work they did within the week, stating that they "had erected all of the interior and exterior walls, put the roof on, installed all the windows and exterior doors, installed the siding, and had the roof partially shingled. The house was completed three weeks after we started."

When the committed members of Habitat for Humanity aren't traveling around the country looking for things to improve, they are spending their Saturdays working on a house in the West Baltimore neighborhood, Sandtown-Winchester with their affiliate, Sandtown Habitat for Humanity.

Stout says that for these annual projects, they have to raise half of the construction costs, which will be \$25,000 this year. The house should be completed in February, making it the fifth house JHU Habitat has completed.

Throughout the year, the group raises money by hosting the Battle of the Bands in February and Habijam in March, where many students groups perform and raffle prizes are distributed.

Thus far this year, the group has received a lot of interest on behalf of different members and organizations at Homewood. Before school even started they hosted a Pre-O program with eight freshmen. Alpha Phi, Circle K and SigEp are also amongst the many groups that have been involved in the Saturday Sandtown building.

According to Stout, they've missed very few Saturdays and have had two vans per week as opposed to their usual one van. One Saturday they even got 26 students. Throughout the entire semester, however, they estimate approximately 75 to 80 students have volunteered on any given Saturday, aside from their 11 members.

So, if it's Saturday morning and you just happened to be awake, you should go find the Habitat crew — I'll give you a hint, they'll be building a house. If you never get around to it, but you do see an application for the spring break trip just lying around, don't delay to fill it out and hand it in. There are only 12 spots available.

## And what's the deal with D-Level?



VADIM GRETCHOUCHKIN/NEWS-LETTER

Freshman funnyman Brian Follweiler recounts an embarrassing sexual experience during StuCo's comedy showcase last week.

## Biology is second nature to Pearlman

BY MICHELLE FIKS  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Though Dr. Rebecca Pearlman has hundreds of students in her General Biology lecture, few would ever guess that for vacation their professor took a helicopter trip in British Columbia, and hiked for days in the wilderness after being dropped off with a few companions on top of a mountain. There is much more to the woman behind the lectern than lab research and crafting tests.

"If it's an outdoor thing, I've probably done it," Pearlman said.

When not working in the Biology department at Johns Hopkins, Pearlman can often be found in the throes of nature, in the great outdoors. She thoroughly enjoys hiking and all types of activities that keep the muscles working.

Cross-country skiing and canoeing are at the top of her list of favorite ways to relax. In fact, she recently ran in the 10-mile Cherry Blossom race in D.C., the proceeds of which go towards various charities. It should come as no surprise that one of Pearlman's favorite aspects of the Homewood campus is its gorgeous array of trees and the stream located just west of it.

Pearlman, who grew up in East Lansing, Mich., looked up to her grandmother. Her grandmother, who ran a hardware distribution business and managed property, was a "competent businesswoman who encouraged me to get an education," Pearlman said.

Pearlman always knew that she wanted her career to involve biology. While in college at the University of Michigan, Pearlman couldn't decide whether she wanted to solely teach, or to do research as well. She credits her mentor, Barb Sloat, at the University of Michigan, for helping steer her onto her current career path, which is a hybrid of lab work and teaching. Mentors, Pearlman believes, are of utmost value for students looking to enter the professional field.

"It's important to find a mentor to talk to about career plans; to have



VADIM GRETCHOUCHKIN/NEWS-LETTER

someone batting for you." Pearlman's current job at Hopkins is roughly equal to that of her mentor back at Michigan.

Pearlman currently teaches both undergraduates and graduate students at Hopkins. She teaches General Biology I and II, as well as the corresponding lab courses, for undergrads. As part of the Masters in Biotechnology program, she leads the Advanced Recombinant DNA lab.

"There are only 11 students in the lab; I can interact with students and be in the lab with them, which is a lot of fun," Pearlman said.

What Pearlman finds most exciting about the field of biology is its mutable nature.

"Infectious diseases, such as HIV and tuberculosis, push the limits of our research and public health," and

are a constant source of new and exciting discoveries, said Pearlman. As a professor who enjoys faculty-student interaction, Pearlman finds "helping kids understand what they didn't before and how to better study" very gratifying. Exciting things also happen in her lab class, where in the past two years there were two fires, though no one was hurt.

When not biking and spending time with her family, Pearlman can be found leading services and singing in her synagogue, where she also sits on the Social Action Committee. She also had a great time at the recent David Broza concert held on campus.

When it comes to movies, Pearlman adores Meryl Streep and Robin Williams. In fact, Pearlman will watch any movie in which one of those actors plays a role. Pearlman said that

she's even watched the film *Jumanji* (which wasn't "particularly good," she noted) just because of Williams' performance.

Detective novels, such as the popular *Nancy Drew* series, were a favorite of Pearlman's when she was young. As a child, she confesses that she "watched too much television" — so much, in fact, that Pearlman "hardly watches TV now."

Pearlman, who attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison for graduate school, where she earned a PhD in Genetics, likes to visit the Dorr Peninsula in Wisconsin for vacation. While in Maryland, Pearlman enjoys relaxing in the "isolation and wilderness" of Assateague, "a protected island off the coast of Maryland and Virginia." Pearlman is a biologist in the true sense of the word: she loves nature.

## CPK's cuisine has a west coast touch

California Pizza Kitchen in Harborplace offers top notch cuisine at beach bum prices



LIZ STEINBERG/FILE PHOTO

Although CPK's pizzas are excellent, their appetizers are not to be missed.

BY ERIN SIMPSON  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

On days like this — cold, bleak, windy December days in Baltimore — my mind wanders to thoughts of home, to beautiful Southern California. I think of Santa Monica, sun on the 101 and 72 degree Christmases. But mostly when I think of lovely Los Angeles, I think of the food.

Baltimore may have the corner on the seafood market, but California has a style all its own. LA, especially my sprawling suburban town, Pasadena, is the food Mecca of the Southwest, blending Mexican, Asian, Italian and American cuisine to create a taste distinctly known as "Californian cooking."

Let's get this straight: "California" doesn't mean vegan hamburgers or fruity mango salads. California cooking is all about making food simple — simply delicious. Creative dishes — sometimes exotic, sometimes gourmet — prepared with fresh ingredients are the hallmark of California cooking, which includes everything from pot stickers and tortilla soup to tortellini and Prime Angus beef.

California serves up pan-ethnic favorites with flair, but the true gem of the Golden State is our very own wood-oven pizza. Soft, chewy pizza dough, topped with distinct trimmings, baked to perfection in giant wood burning brick ovens — just

thinking about them transports me back August, to my restaurant Crocodile Café, to our Oakwood oven.

I love the Crocodile Café, and thus not only am I always talking about Crocodile, but always comparing it to other restaurants. Whenever I try to describe Crocodile to a non-California

this nationwide chain specializes in the fine art of the California style pizza. Every restaurant is a regular tourist attraction in itself, complete with an authentic brick oven and rainbow tiled walls that make you think you're miles from the Pacific. And though I am an avid fan of the Crocodile Café (in my tenure there I did sample nearly the entire menu), there's something about CPK that always makes my mouth water.

CPK began in Beverly Hills nearly 20 years ago with their now world famous Barbeque Chicken Pizza — often imitated, never duplicated. Since then, they've expanded their pizza palate to include exotic favorites like Jamaican Jerk or Tandoori Chicken and Carne Asada pizzas.

CPK also dishes up gourmet delights like Goat Cheese and Roasted Peppers or Caramelized Pear and Gorgonzola pizzas, and classic American favorites like Rosemary Chicken Potato, BLT or the perennial Pepperoni and Sausage pizzas. Make that Mushroom Pepperoni Sausage though — this is no Domino's: every flavor is bound to knock your socks off.

But one may ask, "Can't you get tired of pizza, even delicious California pizza?" Well, I have sampled 12 varieties and counting, and I will crave a hearth baked pie from my dining home-away-from-home here in Baltimore.

For all of you who just aren't in the mood for the best pizza you've ever had, CPK has a vast menu full of mouth-watering appetizers, salad, soups, sandwiches, pasta, you name it — and of course my personal favorite, desserts.

I have never been disappointed by an entrée I have ordered at CPK, and believe me I have made the rounds. I would recommend to look beyond the Thai Chicken, Garlic Shrimp or Five Cheese and Tomato Pizza. Appetizers like Sesame Ginger potstickers, Spinach Artichoke Dip and Foccacia with Checca will tantalize your taste buds.

fornian, I tell simply tell them, "I worked at a place called Crocodile Café — it's just like CPK." CPK — California Pizza Kitchen — the restaurant that started it all.

As one could guess by its name,

still have dreams about Crocodile's amazing Pizza Salad would go great with a bowl of White Corn Tortilla Soup. Special dishes like the Roasted Vegetable Foccacia sandwich, Chicken-Tequila Fettuccini or the famous Jambalaya will add kick to any non-Valley Girl's table. And of course, you can't forget the Dulce de Leche Cheesecake, White Chocolate Tartufo or Caramel Pecan Hot Fudge Sundae, because you know you want it.

CPK serves up uniquely California gourmet cuisine without the characteristic high California prices. Their signature 10 inch pizzas, which serve anywhere from one to three people depending on how hungry you are, range from about \$8 to \$10; most entrees like Kung Pao Chicken Pasta will set you back anywhere from about \$10 to \$20. Most sandwiches, soups and salad fall in the \$5 to \$10 range.

CPK serves up California cuisine at portions that rival the great state itself, so make sure to go hungry. Also, make sure to get down to the charming waterfront restaurant, located in the Pratt Street Pavilion at the Inner Harbor early.

A typical wait for a party of four on a Friday or Saturday night could be up to an hour and a half, and they don't take reservations, so a night at CPK almost demands a full day of shopping beforehand.

I could never get sick of good old CPK: maybe I just miss the sunny summer days and smell of Oakwood in the morning, but I will always be addicted to California cooking. It's hard to describe, a style of cooking so clean, fresh, healthy and flavorful as California Pizza Kitchen offers. It's in my bloodstream: I was born and raised with this distinctly So Cal phenomena.

For those of you whose Sodexo-numbered taste buds cry out for new, fresh, crisp flavors, or those of you like me who miss the "Californian" restaurant on every corner, CPK is a home away from home. They offer the most authentic taste of Los Angeles this side of the Rockies — Crocodile Café is still only available in the Southwest.

## FEATURES

# Feng Shui can help give you good chi

RAPHAEL SCHWEBER-KOREN/NEWS-Letter  
The News-Letter office without Feng Shui. Bad chi looms...BY ANNA LEIST  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

It was a tired Tuesday afternoon. Classes were over. I mustered up the energy for my trek back to McCoy, got there, walked into my incredibly messy, unorganized excuse for a room, sat down at my computer, and thought to myself, "How should I know what people want to read in the *News-Letter*?" So I began thinking, "What are some major obstacles in my life right now?" Well, there's the obvious stress of school mixed with the fact that I have the tendency to become a bit, shall we say, unorganized.

Then I had an epiphany. Yes, I realized that disorganization, you know the thing your parents always lectured you about, leads to a lot of stress that maybe, just maybe, isn't necessary. Wow,

this could mean that my mom actually knew what she was talking about when she kept repeating those words, "Clean your room!"

So here comes the hard part: what to do? Well here's a hint: "Feng Shui agrees with your mother. that a cluttered room indicates a cluttered mind," says William Spear, author of *Feng Shui Made Easy* (Harper, 1995).

"Feng Shui, what's that?" you say. Well, quite simply, it's an ancient Chinese practice of arranging your physical world to clear up and free that of your mind, using the principles of good and bad chi. It helps you to be in harmony with nature and the environment. True, Spear does go on to say that the clutter also indicates a "clogged intestinal system," but I don't know about that.

However, we can use some of the most basic principles of Feng Shui to restore a minimal amount of order to our lives. And if that happens, well, for me at least, it's worth it!

Spear explains that everything is connected. "Say your chair faces away from the room's entrance, which makes you jumpy and nervous, so you snap at your [significant other], which brings tension into your [relationship], which makes you eat more and gain weight, which brings more tension into your relationship, which affects how you do [in school], which means you won't get very good [grades], which means

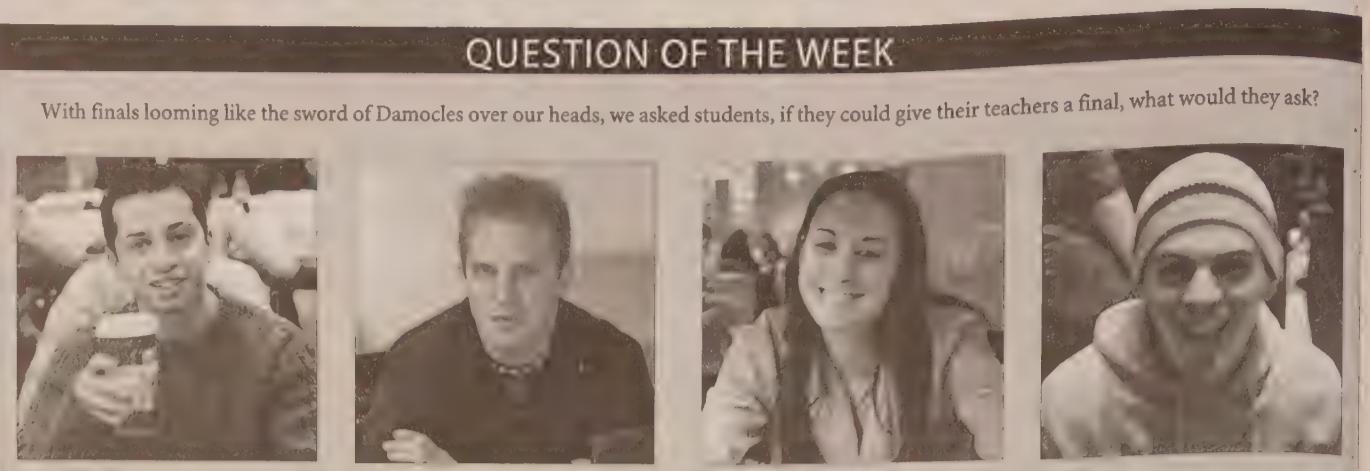
Feng Shui agrees with your mother that a cluttered room indicates a cluttered mind.

-WILLIAM SPEAR

Certain accessories to your room can also help if they're placed correctly. Wind chimes can circulate good chi and act as a warning system. Plants and aquariums symbolize life, reassuringly. However, Spear advises the use of those tacky silk

flowers instead, "so you won't have the burden of death hanging over you constantly." Pictures should be hung within reach — if they're too high you'll always be reaching for unobtainable things, but if they're lower, your horizon of possibilities is endless. "Heavy objects, such as statues or boulders, can stabilize an environment," Spear argues (but I'm not sure why you'd have a boulder in your bedroom, or where in Baltimore you would find that). Having your desk up against your wall will block your flow of energy. (Oops! Mine is.)

Finally, objects from nature, or even pictures of them, will encourage good chi and make guests feel more comfortable, because nature connects us all. Whether or not Feng Shui and chi are real, purportedly, they have the ability to enhance your health, happiness, wealth and prosperity. Wouldn't that be nice? I guess what I'm trying to say is, even if you don't believe in it, some of the ideas just make sense and couldn't hurt if they help to quell even the tiniest bit of stress in your life. All I know is that I really could use some of that "good chi" as I'm preparing for final exams!

COURTESY OF HTTP://HOME.WANADOO.NL  
The News-Letter office with Feng Shui. Good chi is around the corner.

With finals looming like the sword of Damocles over our heads, we asked students, if they could give their teachers a final, what would they ask?



"Don't you hate BME's? (Open-ended)"

—Arie Chaz Belot, Sophomore History Major



"Disprove the mantra that those who can't do, teach."

—Dan Stilwell, Sophomore Psychology Major



"Do you care more about your research or your teaching?"

—Suzanne Abdallah, Sophomore Intl. Studies/Psychology Major



"Please explain the relevance of your class."

—Gavin Barnhard, Sophomore Writing Seminars Major

## The Jersey shore? Smells like a plan

COURTESY OF LEIF GLYNN  
The Trump Casino, in Atlantic City, is the perfect place to visit on a spontaneous road trip. No ID? No problem.BY ALEXANDRA FENWICK  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Along with sex in the library, a spontaneous road trip rates high on almost every "Things-To-Do-Before-I-Graduate-From-College" list ever created. Being only two hours and change away, each year many Hopkins students choose to fulfill their wanderlust and cross "road trip" off the list by jumping in the car and making the pilgrimage to Atlantic City, N.J., a lovely seaside resort. They don't have too many libraries there, but I do hear they have gambling.

Although I can't say I've ever done a road trip Atlantic City, I consider myself somewhat of an expert on it. I was born there, in the Frank Sinatra Maternity Wing of the Atlantic City Medical Center (I am not making that up, that's what it's called). But although I know all about the diving horses and Miss America, the boardwalk and salt-water taffy, I don't really know what it's like to jump in a car at 4 a.m. and shout "Atlantic City or Bust." So I asked JHU's Rat Pack how it goes.

Senior Chris Kunico is currently planning a road trip to A.C. for winter break. Not too planned, however. Spontaneity, he reminds us, is key.

"Road trips in general should never be too planned. You just have to make sure you have enough money for gas, tolls, the tables and a couple of hookers," he said.

Part of what makes it easy to be so spontaneous about a road trip to Atlantic City is that everything is always open. Those nice casinos are willing to take your money 24 hours a day! This brilliant marketing ploy is practically aimed directly at restless college students who are far more likely to come rolling up in the wee hours of the morning than arriving via charter bus with a bunch of little old ladies.

Junior Justin Nolan certainly did it the college-student way, but looking back on it he wasn't sure if it was such a good idea and expressed his concern for the safety of late-night road trips.

"I'm not sure that you can recommend driving to A.C. drunk on a whim in the school paper," he said.

Well I certainly don't recommend it, but let's be honest, it happens quite a lot. If it's 3 a.m. and you decide it's a good idea to get in a car and drive several hours to lose your money, you've probably been drinking. That being said, driving through South Jersey farmland on Route 40 in the middle of a weekend night is not something I would recommend either. It's a notorious spot for drunk driving accidents.

Take the New Jersey Turnpike to the Atlantic City Expressway instead. It's not a one lane highway (one big truck on Route 40 and you're stuck) and there aren't any bars or rodeos along the way. Just make sure you remain inside the vehicle while it is moving. Recounting his adventures in Atlantic City, Nolan tells us why.

"We decided to go to A.C. and I drove everyone there at around 4 or 5 in the morning. We gambled, ate at Burger King, and then we tried to catch a seagull with a blanket. This is all after one of my friends almost got us all killed by jumping out of the moving car because he decided he wanted a souvenir bucket of sand. We didn't get the bird, but he got his bucket."

Remember, even if you lose all your money, the sand is always free. And, if you so desire, there are no real obstacles to losing your money, even if you are underage. Though the legal age limit to gamble in the United States is 21, Nolan asserts it's not really a problem.

"The casinos are all the same. They'll all take your money and not check your ID," he said.

Senior Lauren Follett noted, however, that although security may not give you a hard time about getting on the floor, if you want any of the benefits that high rollers enjoy it is best to act the part.

"Book a room in advance and don't wear jeans," she advises. "They don't

take you seriously when you look like a kid. Always act like you have a lot of money. People will be much nicer." A true lesson for life.

Follett reminisced about her first Atlantic City experience, "We decided to go when we were sitting in PJ's at 1 a.m. on a Sunday night before the first day of school this year. The first table I sat at, first time I ever played blackjack, I was up 150 bucks within a half hour." However, her luck was not going to last.

"We went to sleep at 10 a.m. and woke up at 4 p.m. and had stale pretzels and beer for breakfast. At the end of the night I was down 250 bucks but it was worth it. Where better to spend your first day of school than in Atlantic City? I can't wait to go back."

Although I haven't done Atlantic City in the road trip format, as a local I know it pretty well. I've seen the hookers on the corners, attended casino shows starring washed-out acts, and even done a polar bear dip in the January Atlantic Ocean. (Note, this is cold. Do not get carried away with the spontaneity of it all if you don't have warm blankets and a change of clothes).

The only time I managed to get up the nerve to hit the casino floor I only had time to pull one slot machine and make friends with a few old ladies before I noticed a guard eyeing me suspiciously. But I know the neighborhood. Some advice:

If it was a cheap property in the Parker Brothers' Monopoly, you don't want to be there in real life either. For instance, if you find yourself on Baltic Avenue, run like the dickens. The boardwalk, however, is fine. They even have rolling chairs, a fairly ridiculous concept native only to Atlantic City. They're best described as white wicker rickshaws. You simply hail one like a taxi and then you can get pushed down the boards on your way to passing Go and collecting \$200, for only a small fee.

If you get hungry, and you will if you've been drinking and you've been up all night, you're going to want to eat. If you're lucky enough to lose a lot of money on the floor and get the pit boss to comp you a meal in one of the casino restaurants, you've got nothing to worry about. But if not, check out these places.

Tony's Baltimore Bar and Grill on Atlantic Avenue is open until 4 a.m. and has delicious thin-crust pizza; this is where the locals hang out. Whitehouse Subs is also famous in the area. They use authentic Atlantic City Italian bread, which if you didn't know, is the best bread ever.

One word: Hooters. Two locations: the Tropicana and Trump Marina. Delightfully tacky as always, it attracts the tackiest customers possible in a town that's already low on class. Casino rats, lounge lizards and underage boys never get tired of buffalo wings. Or maybe it's the boobs. I'm not sure.

If you're the kind of person who likes to cap off a night of drinking with a breakfast of drinking, the Tun Tavern in the Sheraton next to the train station might be the place for you.

It brews its own beer and is probably the only place on the South Jersey shore, besides the casinos themselves, that doesn't card strictly.

However, if you're more the type who enjoys actual food, Gilchrist's on Maryland Ave is a good pick. This place is Atlantic City's answer to Pete's Grill. Just like Pete's it has counter seating you have to wait in line for and fattening breakfast food cooked to order. It is the perfect ending to a gambling all-nighter.

Whatever you do in Atlantic City, remember the immortal words of New Jersey born Bruce Springsteen. "Down the shore, everything's all right." Have fun.

"Put your makeup on, put your hair up pretty, and meet me tonight in Atlantic City."



<http://www.jhunewsletter.com>

## FEATURES

# Take two on the college essay

## A sophomore's response to the Johns Hopkins application essay

BY ISHAI MOOREVILLE  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

If you had only \$10 (or 11 EUR, or R\$25 or Rs 490 etc.) to plan a day's adventure, where would you go, what would you do and who would you take with you?

That is the essay question on this year's application to Johns Hopkins University, to which a response is required of all applicants. Scores of high school seniors applying to Hopkins this year are busy finishing their essays this month, trying to give it that extra sparkle that catches the eye of an admissions officer and can lead to an acceptance letter. Looking back, I remember how much time I spent crafting those college essays, trying to put into words that perfect image or idea that would sway the final decision, though I know it probably had less impact on the than I initially thought. So I decided to take another crack at the college essay, with one small difference. This time, there was no pressure to impress. The question is all there is, and somewhere, an answer.

Ten dollars isn't a lot of money in today's world. But who ever said you need a lot of money to have fun? Ten dollars is enough cash to buy a movie ticket, to order a cheap pizza or to buy a book. But I really wouldn't want to do any of those things with a "day of adventure." I could hop a train into the city (Philadelphia, my hometown) and wander the streets, peer into shops, perhaps meet an odd personality or two. But that

wouldn't suffice either.

What exactly is a day of adventure anyway? Is it supposed to be fun and carefree, or am I supposed to venture into some poverty-ridden neighborhood to realize how lucky I am? And who am I supposed to bring on this trip? My dad, mom, sisters? That would be too easy, too

Ten dollars isn't a lot of money in today's world. But whoever said you need a lot of money to have fun? And what exactly is a day of adventure anyway?

simple. I think I would rather bring a friend, any friend I've ever had in my life. Somebody to talk to, to share with. I'd hop into the car, \$10 in my wallet, pick up the friend and hit the gas.

Together we'd drive, drive past the places of my childhood, of my adolescence, of my young adulthood. The house I grew up in and learned to overcome my fear of the dark. The school yard in which I was the star receiver during the recess football

games. The movie theater where we saw *Beavis and Butt-head do America*. The shopping mall where my mom took me to get clothes every season. The convenience store which we frequented for late-night snacks. The hill where we used to go sledding after a snowfall. The bus-stop where I waited every morning at 7 a.m. during high school. The billiards hall where I went on a blind-date. The tennis courts where my dad and I played, with him usually winning. The day-camp where I learned how to talk to people I'd never met before. The streets where I went trick-or-treating. The park where we fired model rockets thousands of feet into the air.

I'd just drive from spot to spot, a friend by my side, remembering the times I had, the obstacles faced, the lessons learned. It's amazing how much memory is attached to locations. In 30 years, I'll go back to the same places and see the same events that happened when I was first there. That's one type of adventure. Revisiting the past, the moments that shaped who you are today. All of those memories come together inside a person's mind to form something irreplaceable, a consciousness, a soul. No matter how far we go from home, or how much time separates us from those places, people and events, it is important to remember them. Sometimes examining one's past is good preparation for heading into the future.

Oh yeah, the \$10. Almost forgot. I'd give it to my friend and ask him what he'd do with it if he had a free day to plan an adventure.



JASON GORDON/NEWS-LETTER

*The beautiful snows of winter break provide a natural haven for relaxation over a long intersession.*

## Winter options are limitless

BY KIMBERLY PHELAN

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

As the end of fall semester looms on the horizon, there is only one thing on students' minds — yup, you guessed it, what they'll do with their long winter break. Intersession classes are always an option, but for some, staying in Baltimore is just not an acceptable choice.

Opportunities abound for those seeking to leave the familiarity of good old Baltimore and for most those opportunities do not include working hard. Resting the brain is a serious activity that many diligent students at Johnny Hop neglect during the regular school year and must work twice as hard on during their breaks.

When scheduling their free time, most students take into account what amenities their school life lacks. "Well, I first plan on sitting on the couch and doing nothing," said sophomore and workaholic Alexandra Sowa, "and then a little more of nothing, and then, when I eventually get bored, I'll go see my friends. Oh, but don't forget the whole sleeping a lot and eating my momma's home-cooked food." And while for most, nothing is quite enough, but some are compelled to broaden their

horizons in their down time.

For sophomore Kestrel Linder, this includes intensive language courses. That's right — beware women of Mexico, this hot tamale is going south of the border. Day in and day out, Kestrel will be studying Spanish in Cuernavaca, Mexico in his break from school: "It will be nice to get

Intersession classes are always an option, but for some, staying in Baltimore is just not an acceptable choice.

away from the crunch for a while and see something other than Charles Village when I walk out the door."

For others, the chance to enrich themselves takes them to the other environmental extreme. Students attending the Hopkins Outdoor Leadership Training trip will find themselves on what Sean Heffernan, one of the student trainers, calls "a two

week winter camping and leadership course set in beautiful Keene Valley, New York — eight feet of snow!"

The group, made up of three student trainers and several other undergraduates, mainly freshmen, will be doing everything from snowshoeing to honing winter mountaineering skills to ice climbing. For many other winter sports enthusiasts, winter break plans also include skiing and snowboarding.

Sophomore snow bunny Emily Caparello sees this as a foregone conclusion to the problem of passing time over winter break: "Hello, who doesn't like skiing? You get to go down a mountain really fast and then they bring you back up again. You don't have to do anything. The cold sucks, but it's worth it."

For anyone who can bare the cold, the thrill is worth it, but a few students will be enjoying the snowy weather in other ways. Nick Petrone, resident snowboarding ingénue, will also be enjoying the rush of "doing no work and going snowboarding everyday" but he will also enjoy the snow in other ways. "My New Year's plans always involve snow," says Petrone, "because New Year's Eve is the day we build a really big snowman and then at midnight, we knock it down."

## HOT AT HOPKINS

Have a good winter break. Keep that "hot" feeling alive. You should all come back feeling extremely hot. And don't forget to wear your mittens. E-mail: [HotatHopkins@jhunewsletter.com](mailto:HotatHopkins@jhunewsletter.com)

He also said that girls get bonus points when they "remind me of my mom." Aww, how sweet.

The craziest thing he's ever done was jump into the mosh pit at a Dropkick Murphy's show, his most beloved band. He's also been known to run around campus in his boxers, so keep an eye out ladies if you want a closer look at this male specimen.

As for pick-up lines, Evan's used his fair share. He shared one of his gems: "How 'bout a cocktail? I'll bring the ... Well, you can figure out the rest. So girls, get your umbrellas out, 'cause there's a storm a brewing and his name is Evan."

She also thinks "scruff" is sexy. So if you forget to shave, she just might dig you.

Going through her music collection you'll find Billy Joel and Janis Joplin. She also attended a Shakira concert and commented, "I am damn proud of it."

One time, Sam recalls, she and her friend (who are both six feet tall) got hit on by a somewhat older gentleman. He started by saying, "So, you are two beautiful tall girls. Did they grow you in a greenhouse?" Take a hint, fellas: Women don't come from gardens.

For breakfast, fry her up some spinach omelettes. To make her go head over heals, give her a bouquet of flowers.

After college, Sam has a good idea about what she wants to do. She wants to work with autistic children, get married, have four kids, a cat and a dog. But not necessarily in that order.

Don't let this one pass you by. She never had a bad date, so there is no way you could mess this one up. But please, don't take her to CVP.



### FUNKYTOWN LOVE

Name: Evan Storm  
Sign: "Who cares?"  
Year: Sophomore  
Major: Economics

This Brooklyn-born phenom is coming to a dorm room near you. Don't let his tough look and goatee intimidate you. Inside, Evan is all love.

"Spontaneous, funky and jig" (is "jig" an adjective?) Evan is a hard-working AEPi brother who loves mint chip ice cream.

On his dream date, you'll be whisked away to the jewel of New York City: a Mets game at Shea Stadium on Irish night. No specifics for afterwards, but he promises to make it an "eventful evening."

You might be Evan's ultimate woman if you have "good looks, funky style and a good personality."



### VOLLEYBALL "CHIC"

Name: Samantha Marie Raggi  
Sign: Taurus  
Year: Junior  
Major: Art History and Psychology

As a member of the Volleyball

## Weren't you serving food at Wolman on Halloween?



PHOTOS BY DENISE TERRY/NEWS-LETTER

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**Witness Theater presented their second set of four student written and directed one act plays Nov. 22-24 in Arellano Theater.**  
(Top) Junior Josh Levin plays a clown named Banana Fana, who attempts to drag unfortunate soul Craig Gridelli into "The universe where everything is wrong." Gridelli's character had decided to leave his wife, but reconsidered after almost being trapped by Banana Fana. The play, entitled *The Door*, was written by Andy Moskowitz and directed by Katie Gradowski.  
(Bottom) Senior Dave Morrow reconnects with a long lost love, played by freshman Nina Hollis, in *The War*, written by Kris Jansma and directed by Elise Roecker.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Bond's *Die Another Day* hits theaters with a big bang



COURTESY OF MGM DISTRIBUTION CO.

Pierce Brosnan and Halle Berry get intimate as Agent 007 and Jinx in the 20th Bond film, *Die Another Day*, one of the big holiday theater draws.

BY SHAYAN BARDHAN  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

"Well, there's a name to die for," James Bond remarks halfway into the movie, as he notes a thug's name. But he might as well have been talking about himself. The MI6 agent celebrates his 40th year since the first Ian Fleming novel was published and his 20th installment on the big screen. Yet, this is not a movie stretching a franchise too thin and too far; it simply tells the world that the legacy of the charming, cool British assassin lives on. As the movie continues to rake in big money, it proves that the name hasn't lost its brand equity.

*Die Another Day* starts off at a high point. Amidst huge waves set off the coast of "Axis-of-Evil" member North Korea, there is a very well-cho-

reographed scene with a trio surfing in to infiltrate a military stronghold. Soon the ski mask comes off and we get to see Pierce Brosnan — further aged and a few more creases on that face — ready to bust an "African conflict" diamond smuggling operation run by Colonel Moon (Will Yun Lee) and his trusted aide, Zao (Rick Yune). The sting goes bust as Zao discovers Bond's true identity and the pyrotechnics start with some really good cars being blown up. (Interestingly, they are all the current versions of old Bond cars.)

Over the years, Bond flicks have distinguished themselves, amongst other things, with possessing a really good second unit. It is these guys who have the responsibility of directing the movie's most important action set-pieces. The first of these are a

hovercraft chase sequence that is incredibly simple for the mechanics of a hovercraft. The perennially sliding amphibious vehicle replaces the standard car chase with repeated handbrake turns at street corners. It's fast, crisp and well directed. And it's topped off with the most unusual ending of all: Bond is captured.

*Die Another Day* stood out before it was released. It was supposed to be a tribute to all those men in tuxedos that seduced and shot their way into fame before it. Kiwi director Lee Tamahori (*Once Were Warriors, The Edge*) is known for his carefully detailed approach towards making a movie. He wants to set a precedent, whilst maintaining the essential ingredients of a Bond movie. The famous intro credit sequence takes a diversion from tradition and inter-

cuts action sequences as Madonna's 21st century techno-pop tune plays in the background. The clips are of the invincible James Bond being tortured and beaten. Why, he even has a long beard to sport at the end of it all. Considering he could never be spotted with even stubble before, it surely is the biggest step taken in this movie.

Bond is eventually traded for Zao and his status is revoked by M (colder than the ice palaces seen later), who suspects her prized agent of losing his touch. Being James Bond, there is nothing that a couple of glasses of Bollinger, a few Cuban cigars and a tall Mojito (one of the many nods towards *Goldfinger*) can't solve. With all those frequent flier miles he's gathered over the years, he embarks on his usual tour of the world: North Korea, Hong Kong, Cuba, London

and Iceland. He runs into Jinx (Halle Berry) and Miranda Frost (Rosamund Pike), a contrast in every possible way, yet never too contrasted enough for Bond's interest.

The earlier three movies by Pierce Brosnan have a lot of debatable decisions going against them. The use of the not too uncommon — yet classy — BMW series as Bond's car of choice was the first. Then there's the well-endowed nuclear physicist, Denise Richards. Even Michelle Yeoh looked more at home among leaping dragons in old China than in Bond's company. *Die Another Day* sets it all straight. Our favorite British spy returns to his favorite British car as he is presented with the Aston Martin Vanquish. The car is as elegant, breathtaking and deadly as the DB5 and the Lotus Elise that 007 used to ride before. The Vanquish is involved in the most scenic car chase scene ever, along with Zao's Jaguar convertible. The best way to describe this sequence: two great cars, cool gadgets, slick driving maneuvers and one frozen lake.

Jinx is less of a damsel in distress and more the able counterpart. She can hold her own, look sexy and deliver the requisite one-liners loaded with sexual innuendos. Halle Berry is competent and good, and would kick Dr. Christmas Jones' butt in a heartbeat if she needed to. Her voice is just a tad too light (shriek at times) and lacks the lusciousness of Honor Blackman or Daniella Bianchi.

But the person who steals the show is Rosamund Pike. She personifies the perfect uptight, cold, British foil for Bond. There is an undertone of confidence in her dialogue and a classiness lacking in all of the recent Bond girls. Her scenes with Pierce Brosnan hit all the right notes and even make us nostalgic about the countless Sean Connery bedroom scenes. Miranda Frost has an air about her that is distant and chilly (hence the name, I suppose) and is convincing as worthy of a challenge that would lure Bond.

The plot in itself is an homage to all those crazy far-fetched ones that we are used to by now. It is a mixture of Bond going rogue in *License to Kill*, the solar agitator and diamonds from *Diamonds Are Forever*, *GoldenEye's* deadly satellite and a mysterious business man with an inside connection to MI6 from *Moonraker*. By creating a teeth-clenching villain in Gustav

Graves (Toby Stephens) determined about world domination, the writers stay true to the genre. Zao is interesting at first but he meets his end in an all-too-familiar and uninspiring way. The trusted sidekicks should always be dispensed of in a more innovative and memorable fashion in Bond movies. John Cleese reprises his role as Q and delivers a much-improved performance. While presenting 007 with his 20th watch, a glass shattering ring and an invisible car, he indulges in the most delightful conversational scene of the movie with Pierce Brosnan.

The script takes care to bring Bond back to his roots. Roger Moore was too comical, Dalton was too serious and Brosnan earlier portrayed 007 as too vulnerable and amusing (depending on the day). *Die Another Day* shows James Bond as a calculated government killer who hasn't lost his wit and suaveness. The return to a more action-oriented installment was a very conscious effort on Lee Tamahori's part.

At the end of it all — after the gadgets, cars, bad guys and women — it comes down to whoever plays 007. The best part about *Die Another Day* is that this is Pierce Brosnan's movie and not a Bond movie where he happens to be James Bond. He looks every bit of Bond and is immensely comfortable in the role. I dare say that he has finally moved out of Connery's shadow and has shaped the template for future Bonds. Here is a man who has confidently worked it down to the little details that define Bond, including the unmistakable swagger, the disarming charm and even the hairy chest. More importantly, he demonstrates his viability for more movies in this series.

*Die Another Day* is a great movie to watch — both for casual lovers of the action genre and for crazy Bond fans — as it delivers what it promises. It's a welcome break from the past, for the better, and yet it holds on to themes on which its foundation was built. There are numerous references, subtle or otherwise, to each of the past 19 Bond movies, which would definitely invite multiple viewings and drive future DVD sales. It's almost nostalgic in its rendering, yet fresh with Brosnan's adaptation, new car and Rosamund Pike's role. Even Moneypenny would be happy about this one. After all, she gets to go where no Bond movie has ever taken her before.

## Guster plays to cheering audience at Loyola

Students from Loyola and Johns Hopkins were in attendance for this laid-back show

BY GAVIN BARNHARD  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Outside, the winds howled menacingly, snapping at human skin with a chilly bite and scattering fallen leaves in all directions. But even the fiercest winds couldn't keep fans from trekking to Loyola's campus to see Guster perform on stage on Nov. 22.

The evening began with an opening performance from singer-songwriter Josh Rouse, accompanied by his three fellow band mates. Rouse and his band played a set that mostly included songs found on his newest album, *Under Cold Blue Stars*. The light, bouncy sound of many of his songs, such as "Feeling No Pain," "Laughter" and "Miracle," served as a favorable compliment to Guster's lively style.

In addition to his upbeat numbers, Rouse also engaged the crowd with some of his more mellow songs, including "Flair" and "Christmas with Jesus." Although most kids claimed

never to have heard Rouse's music before, members of the small crowd seemed to appreciate his talent.

By the time Guster took the stage, the crowd had grown considerably, accumulating students from both Loyola and Johns Hopkins. The young audience cheered at the sight of Guster's three band members onstage.

The band literally opened with a bang, launching into "Barrel of a Gun" to begin their set for the night. The song, from their most recent album, *Lost and Gone Forever*, efficiently revved the members of the crowd, who immediately began dancing and singing along.

To follow their strong opening, Guster proceeded to play "Demons," a slightly older song dating back to the band's second album, *Goldfly*. Arguably their greatest album, *Goldfly* generally takes on a darker, sadder, softer tone than the band's other two records.

Although "Demons" marked a

stark contrast to the up-tempo opener, the crowd was equally pleased, cheering gleefully upon recognizing the first few notes of the song. Over the course of the night, Guster also played the angry "Airport Song" and the melancholy "X-Ray Eyes" off of *Goldfly*.

The setlist focused more on music from *Lost and Gone Forever*, the most popular of the band's three albums. The audience was obviously well-versed when it came to this newer album, which boasts a more pop-oriented sound, singing along to "Happier," "I Spy" and "Two Points for Honesty." Even the slower-paced "Either Way" was enhanced by the crowd's enthusiasm.

The highlight of the night, however, was the band's performance of "Fa Fa (Never Be the Same)," another track from *Lost and Gone Forever*. This single enjoyed a brief but memorable lifespan on mainstream radio stations about two years ago. It is probably for this reason that the song

garnered such a positive response from the fans. Guster's three members produced an impressively mighty sound from onstage, adding a remarkable instrumental extension onto the end of the song. The intensity of the performance served to better emphasize the talent of the musicians, especially bongo drummer, Brian.

Guster also attempted to entertain older fans who recognized music from the band's first album, *Parachute*. A typical favorite off of this album is "Mona Lisa," which the band artfully played to an excited audience. In addition to music from the past, the crowd was also greeted with songs that will be found on the band's upcoming fourth full-length album, slated to hit record stores early next year.

The band also inserted an element of humor into their performance, taking time to read aloud an article from Loyola's school newspaper. Guster's impending performance had made the front page of the paper and was apparently expected to be "one of the best concerts Loyola had seen in a long time."

The author of the article had also made it clear that Guster was willing to play for Loyola's student body at "half the cost" of many of the other acts who had previously visited the college campus. Guster's band members took this statement in a light-hearted, jovial manner, pleasing audience members who frequently attest to the band's consistently laid-back attitude.

The evening ended with a memorable encore performance. As part of the encore, Guster played yet another track from *Lost and Gone Forever*, called "Center of Attention." Incidentally, a rendition of this song was performed last year by Hopkins' own Octopodes a cappella group. To finish off the night, the musicians bravely attempted a cover of Bon Jovi's "Livin' on a Prayer."

The effort was hugely successful, as the humorous ditty united the crowd in a frenzy of nostalgia for the '80s. After such a bold, energetic performance, the youthful audience easily shrugged off the blustery weather, knowing that the evening with Guster had been well worth braving the cold outside.



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## Jackson doesn't stop

BY MARTIN MARKS  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

I know what you must be thinking. Those of you too young to remember the days before Bubbles the Chimp, the skeleton of the Elephant Man, the Neverland Ranch, the kiss with Lisa Marie Presley and (my personal favorite) the accusations of racism that even Al Sharpton shies away from, are probably saying to yourself "Trust me, we've all heard enough of Michael Jackson."

Well I'm here to tell you that you haven't. I remember when I bought Michael Jackson's *Black and White* album, back when it was still cool to own the latest Jackson album. When I started playing the album at home, my parents started saying to me, "Hey, if you like that album, you should check out *Off the Wall*." But thinking of them as dorky, Lawrence Welk-listening music plebeians, I never listened. Then, during my freshman year at JHU, I went to a dance party. Expecting the usual college booty-shaker music, I was surprised when the room was overtaken by off-beat rhythms, followed by the unmistakable early vocal stylings of Jackson.

When I asked the host what album he was playing, he showed me the CD cover to *Off the Wall*, the very same album that my parents had tried to get me to listen to back in the day. So this was *Off the Wall*, I said to myself,

as the room broke down into dance.

I now know that Jackson is probably one of the rockinest people out there. During his Jackson Five days, he created soulful harmonies and endless classics with his now less-than-famous brothers. After Michael broke it off with the Jackson Five in the late 1970s, the rockinest man in the music industry created, what I would consider, one of the best albums of all time. *Off the Wall* arrived on the music scene in 1979, making music history as it slammed up the charts. The album, signaling the entrance of Michael Jackson as a force outside of the company of his brothers, featured four Top 10 hits (a first for a first record by a solo artist). In the rather tawdry world of disco, such songs as "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough" and "Rock With You," were magical in the fact that those who loved Disco and those who hated Disco could listen to them, alike.

And the album is so cool! We're invited into Michael's world during a time when that concept wasn't as off-putting as it is today. The album heralds the bad-ass world of good disco, with Jackson and his trademark short, black pants and white socks standing up against a brick wall. In the days before the megalomaniac commercial success of *Thriller*, and right after his childhood stint with the Jackson Five, Jackson hits perhaps the best musical note of his solo career.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.BIGHASSE.COM

The boys of Guster opened with a bang and played some audience favorites at their Nov. 22 show at Loyola.

# Elton John proves himself the King

**T**he Bitch is back! The incredible, incomparable, indefatigable musical superstar, Sir Elton John, returned on Nov. 12 with his 42nd album, *Elton John Greatest Hits 1970-2002*. This two-disc set features 34 of Elton's biggest hits, and many copies include a bonus 4-track CD, all adding up to over two-and-a-half hours of some of the best music out there.

I should preface this with a disclaimer: Before I really start gushing, it's only fair to warn you that I am quite possibly Elton's biggest fan. I own a good chunk of those 41 prior albums, and I've made it my life goal to marry him. (Yes, I know he's gay ... a minor technicality.) I've even changed my future hubby's lyrics from "Your Song" to "Courtney's Song."

Why do I love Elton so much? For one, he's got his own rockin' style, with arguably the most audacious wardrobe in the music business, which, if you've ever seen the VMAs on MTV, is saying quite a bit. Also, he seems like a good man with a big heart, certainly one of the most prominent philanthropists of our time. I think anyone would agree that it's his voice which makes him truly

sexy, though.

With all due respect to Michael Jackson, I've always believed that Elton was the closest we've ever had to a true "King of Pop," and these tracks only serve to reinforce that notion. By releasing this career-spanning collection of hits, Elton joins the likes of the Beatles, Elvis, Aerosmith and Eric Clapton — other stellar singers and musicians with recently-released compilation albums. Arguably, he outshines them all. While the Beatles packed

their historically unmatched career into one decade, this six-time Grammy winner's artistic achievements span several decades and includes 22 Elton-penned Top 10 pop hits to date. In 1992, Elton broke Elvis' record for the most consecutive years with a Top 40 pop single, which he extended to 30 years before missing in 2000.

*Greatest Hits 1970-2002* includes nearly all the highlights of Elton's career in their digitally-remastered glory. The first CD features 17 songs from the '70s, Elton's most productive decade. During these years, Elton

began collaborating with lyricist Bernie Taupin, turning his clever, gifted verse into catchy pop songs, hooking his audience via universal subject material and deft musical styling. This dynamic duo pumped out 15 — count 'em, 15 — hit albums from 1970-1976, including seven consecutive U.S. number ones.

From these glory days, we get classics like "Your Song," "Rocket Man," "Crocodile Rock" (Elton's first American number one), "Candle in the Wind" (the original), "Don't Let the Sun Go Down On Me" and the perennial concert favorite, "Saturday Night's Alright For Fighting." These 17 gems highlight Elton's impressive versatility, from the reflective ballad "Daniel" to the up-tempo number "Honky Cat," from R&B infused "Bennie And The Jets" to the Beach Boys-esque "Island Girl," from number one pop anthem "Philadelphia Freedom" to the lesser-known exquisite love song "Tiny Dancer."

The second CD opens with another number one pop classic, "Don't

Go Breaking My Heart," a duet with Kiki Dee. Released in 1976, this song broke many hearts, as it marked what many believed to be the end of Elton's career. Beginning that year, the exhausted duo went on hiatus to recuperate from six whirlwind years. Elton returned two years later, but it was not until 1983's *Too Low For Zero* that Elton and Bernie came back in peak form. That album, and Elton's latest release, included the appropriately prophetic "I'm Still Standing" and the Top 10 hit "I Guess That's Why They Call It The Blues."

Highlighting the rest of Elton's work from the '80s until today, the second CD is notably less impressive than the first. Ever heard of "Sad Songs (Say So Much)," "Sacrifice" or "The One?" The casual Elton fan generally has not, and even I was less familiar with a couple of songs. The good news is that the last seven tracks are a huge improvement, mirroring the more recent upswing in Elton's work. He came back to the mainstream with "Can You Feel The Love Tonight," his collaboration with Tim Rice for the 1994 blockbuster film, *The Lion King*. When the soundtrack became the world number one for that year, the two were asked to follow up by co-writing the music to *Aida*. Both shows are still running on Broadway, and *Aida*'s "Written In The Stars" (with LeAnn Rimes) is included on the album. The last two songs, "I Want Love" and "This Train Don't Stop There Anymore," are from his most recent album, *Songs From The West Coast*, which shows maturity and depth that harkens back to his early years.

The bonus disc has the live version of "Candle in the Wind" (still the original, and much better than the studio cut), and duets with George Michael, Luciano Pavarotti and Alessandro Safina.

Significantly missing from the album is his rocking hit "Kiss The Bride," from *Too Low For Zero*. Also, even though it's not an Elton original, there's no justifying the absence of his amazing cover of "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds." And what of the 1997 Princess Diana adaptation of



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL MUSIC COMPANY

Elton John highlights his vast musical career with his new album.

"Candle in the Wind," probably his most famous hit?

Barring these crucial omissions, *Greatest Hits 1970-2002* is a winning combination that's sure to please. The album is perfect for new fans, with nearly all of the essential Elton hits packed into two discs. Seasoned fans will appreciate the more obscure bonus tracks and the reassurance that Elton, despite his '80s lag, is still going strong. And the attractive liner notes are rife with photos that, if you're like me, will have you in love at first sight.

## MTV2's compilation pleases

BY KIM ANDREWS

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

The new MTV2 compilation CD, *Handpicked: Volume 2*, is a collection of the newest semi-pop and alternative songs from both widely-known artists and groups destined to become cult favorites. The compilation is a wide departure from such pop-culture collections as the infamous and never-ending *Now [That's What I Call Music]* CDs and the normal sold-out MTV mixes.

*Handpicked: Volume 2* starts out with two songs from bands both similar in name and sound, The Vines and The Hives. These new-wave emo bands have won a small but devoted following with their hits "Set Free" and "Hate to Say I Told You So," respectively. Both of these songs provide a lively opening for the album, and there is much uninelligible screaming backed by mediocre musicianship. Somehow, however, these things combine to form songs that are irresistibly catchy, a tribute to the intense energy that these raw, unpolished bands infuse into their songs.

From here the album moves on to an equally catchy and much more sonically refined single from the little-known band OK Go, "Get Over It." This foot-tapping alternative song fuses distorted guitars with unexpected sounds (such as a synthesized organ) and harmonized vocals to form a tune that lands somewhere between straight alternative, punk and new wave classic. It's a great song, and hopefully we'll hear more from

this promising band in the future.

To tone things down a bit, the middle of the album turns to such artists as Coldplay and Howie Day. The well-known Coldplay single plays upon an extremely simple but melodic main riff (put on a pedestal by lead singer Chris Martin's vocals) backed by multiple layers of guitar harmony to form a soothing, beautiful song. It's well-placed after the OK Go single, as it's not quite as sedate as Howie Day's half-acoustic, half-orchestral "Ghost," which comes three songs later. An unexpected but pleasing choice for the album was the acoustic version of Jimmy Eat World's smash single, "The Middle." While the acoustic version takes some getting used to — it's not nearly as high-energy as the studio version — it is nevertheless well done.

One of the three best songs on the album is from Phantom Planet, a relatively obscure band that currently has a small but devoted following. MTV2 did very well to put the song "Lonely Day" on this album, as it is completely infectious and musically superb. With undistorted guitars, almost Beatles-like major chord progressions and endlessly energetic vocals, Phantom Planet outdoes even the heavy hitters (such as Jimmy Eat World, Coldplay and John Mayer) on the album with "Lonely Day" — a gem of a song.

It seems that the following song, Norah Jones's single "Don't Know Why," was simply put on the album to be politically correct; without her, the compilation would be entirely devoid of a female voice. While she has amazing vocal talent, the song

itself seems to belong more on a blues album and seems a bit oddly placed in this particular collection. The assessment for this one: wonderful song, beautiful talent, wrong album.

To return to heavy hitters, the live version of John Mayer's hit "No Such Thing" appears in good company. With a completely new introduction (recognizing the song is at first very difficult), this version of the song is energetic and refreshing, even though the studio version has long been played out. It truly says something about the song choices on the album that this song is actually one of the worst songs on the disc, as it's not as well-recorded and we can hear the mildly annoying sounds of the audience singing along in the background, and it's still superb.

The two triumphs of the collection, though, are by far "Caught by the River" by Doves and "Ramona" by Guster. The vocals of Doves are closely reminiscent of Coldplay, but the song has more depth than most songs by that band. The effect is sort of a cross between Coldplay and Toad the Wet Sprocket. The complexity of the song is extremely satisfying, and, like OK Go, hopefully there will be more coming from this talented group of artists. The (unfortunately) short and little-known "Ramona" by Guster is an ear-pleasingly simple song with clear guitars and an uncomplicated backbeat. The sheer, unfettered goodness of the song is a rare bird in pop culture and is probably most of the reason why the song is so addictive. Thus, in their separate ways, these two bands emerge on the

top of the heap of a very wisely chosen collection.

This is not to say that the last three songs, by Citizen Cope, Jack Johnson and The Music, do not have their own merits. "If There's Love" by Citizen Cope is another major-key ditty, but this time there are significant jazz and blues influences present, in both the trailing vocals and the multi-layered musicianship. Jack Johnson's "Inaudible Memories" is one of those songs that you've heard before, but you didn't know the artist. It's a laid-back, acoustic man-plus-guitar song, and while it's a solid tune, there's nothing particularly impressive about it. The big surprise of the album comes with The Music's "Take the Long Road and Walk It." The album comes full circle with a band whose sound seems to combine the young simplistic guitars of The Hives with vocals that are faintly reminiscent of believe it or not, AC/DC. Sadly, this energetic ending to the album makes the listener want more and doesn't give a full sense of closure.

Overall, however, this effort by MTV2 is certainly impressive. The songs are well-chosen, well-ordered and fresh, and there is some remarkable new talent present that gives one real hope about the future of alternative pop. This CD is definitely not one to be missed — you'll be left a surprised and very satisfied listener.

## OUT AND ABOUT

For those of us Writing Seminars majors who don't have exams (Bwa ha!), now's the ideal time to check out some of the Ottobar shows. Tonight, after the standard 6-8 p.m. happy hour with Il Culo, check out Ottopaloza, a '90s rock party hosted by Jason Urich and Drew Nelson. The Ottobar's located on Howard Street, within walking distance from Homewood. Check out <http://www.theottobar.com> for more information.

Also tonight at the Recher Theatre in Towson, the Annual Smooth Jazz Holiday Show will feature an evening with Slim Man. The show costs \$10, and doors open 7 p.m. for this early seated show. Check out <http://www.rechertheatre.com> for more information.

Making their umpteenth yet infinitely appreciated appearance in the Baltimore area, the All Mighty Senators will be doing a show with the Rockbottom Stylings of Honky Slim at the Ottobar on Friday night. Come on people, it's a Friday and you have no excuse for not putting down your Orgo textbook for a few hours and enjoying two of the best musical acts in the area playing on the same night.

Again, check out <http://www.theottobar.com> for more information.

If dancing's your thing, then Ottobar's Saturday night '70s/80s Retro Dance Party, featuring DJs Craig Boarman and Toni Joy should be right up your alley. After all the ranting and raving I did about Michael Jackson's "Off the Wall" on page B6, you can bet your life I won't stop till I get enough. Yet again, check out <http://www.theottobar.com> for more information.

On Sunday night at the Recher Theatre, the perennial favorite Aimee Mann will be performing her unique blend of haunting ballads and melodies. This show seems like it will be one of my favorites for the Holiday season. It's \$25 (a bit pricey but well worth it) and doors open at 7 p.m. More information can be found at <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.

That seems like it for this year folks. Keep reading next semester for more shows and concert listings from yours truly. Have a Happy Hannukah, a Merry Christmas and a Joyful Festivus, and remember to party responsibly!

## Treasure Planet delights audiences as Disney's latest animated feature

BY ZAINAB CHEEMA

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Just when you think that the Disney Company is wheezing its last gasp, they whip out that old sorcerer's hat they've got hidden in the closet somewhere and let the magic rip. After unspeakable gaffes like *Dinosaur* and *Atlantis*, and yawns like *The Emperor's New Groove*, they've finally come up with a real gem: *Treasure Planet*, an adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic *Treasure Island*.

The word "adaptation" is right; Stevenson's nautical adventure gets lifted to the realm of outer space, where ships are powered by solar wind, soar amongst flying whales, weather supernovas and black holes, skim the rims of planets and travel through sparkling, breathtaking space-scapes that would strike awe in the heart of any Hubble scientist. It's a splendid idea and makes for some truly amazing animation — 1,324 technicians, by God — that proves Disney is still cutting edge.

And if you thought the high seas put Hornblower and all those Brit naval dudes through a rough ride, just wait till you catch Captain Amelia steering her ship through the havoc of a collapsing star. There's only one possible word for this sequence: whoa.

Wait, you're thinking — Captain Amelia? How remiss of me; I've neglected to introduce you to the plot. Well, young Jim Hawkins, whose dad ran out on him and his mom when he was a little boy, and who's now at that deliciously angsty state

just begging for the kind of coming-of-age yarn Disney spins so well, gets his hand on a map from a dying sailor who crashes outside his mom's inn. It turns out that the map charts the way to the legendary *Treasure Planet*, where the loot of a thousand worlds is stashed.

Of course, if you've stumbled across a treasure map, you ain't just gonna sit there. His cool astronomer friend, Dr. Doppler, finances the voyage and goes along for the ride. He hires a ship commanded by the feline Captain Amelia, brought to scintillating, sparkling life with the voice of the great Emma Thompson, along with her loyal, steady-as-a-rock first mate, Mr. Arrow. Jim gets assigned to help out the ship's cook, a charismatic cyborg called Long John Silver, who has a gleam in his electronic eye you really can't trust. Nevertheless, an odd kind of friendship blossoms between the nervy, needy kid and the weathered, crusty space lubber who sees the makings of greatness in the boy.

But that friendship is put to the test when Jim discovers that Long John is conspiring a mutiny onboard the ship.

*Treasure Planet* strikes a fine balance between adrenaline charged action and human development — the stuff that counts, folks — but only just manages to pull it off. Gravity has no pull, remember, and when you throw in space thrusters and a thrill-starved boy, you get action at lightening speeds that will leave all the extreme sports people in the audience

green with envy.

But all that space dust. What stays with you, after all, are the relationships; the loyalty Mr. Arrow has for his superior and the confidence they have in each other as tried and tested friends, the flirtatious banter and damn good dialogue between the strong, sexy and oh-so-British Amelia and the sweet, nerdy Dr. Doppler and, of course, the mentor and mentee thing that simply sparkles between Long John and Jim.

What's so remarkable about Jim's and Long John's relationship is that it's just plain believable; in the scenes they have together, you'll see Jim's naivety and the desperate longing for a father figure under the tough, streetwise attitude, and — even better — Long John being surprised by the human heart buried beneath the crust of his desperado ways.

My only gripe is that all those scenes are too short; ultimately, the action and the dense visual cinematography end up weighing down the picture. There can be too much of a good thing, and Disney still has to learn to go easy on the computer graphics while they're steering animation into the 21st century. Only it's a pity since they seemed to have the formula down to a tee in masterpieces like *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Lion King*.

Still, *Treasure Planet* will stay with you because it's a remarkable story about journeys; a young man's journey to believe in himself, and a crusty old pirate's journey to realize that human relationships are above the price of rubies.



COURTESY OF DISNEY ENTERPRISES

Jim Hawkins searches for his place in the universe and answers the call for adventure in Disney's *Treasure Planet*.

# TV shows provide alternatives to Christmas shlock

**F**amilial antics reign on television from Thanksgiving to Christmas, transforming a world of tolerable programming into a seasonal universe filled with nearly intolerable morality plays dictating the Christmas spirit. Every year, the networks offer special holiday episodes of their time-honored sitcoms and overstuffed family films to capture the attention of unsuspecting viewers returning home from the mall, clearly too intoxicated with people traffic, credit card debts and various beverages to care if they are watching the umpteenth film about Santa Claus starring a B-List Hollywood actor (this year, Kelsey Grammer). Cable networks often fare no better, devoting large blocks of programming to holiday-influenced marathons and specials.

Not surprisingly, this is merely an attempt at network executives to motivate people to spend and boost a stalled economy, in the spirit of Christmas. Thankfully, amidst all the over-commercialized Christmas fare, disguised as quality entertainment and network gifts to families across America, one can tune to self-proclaimed renegade cable networks for an antidote to all this saccharine banality. Granted, I respect the value of Capra's *It's A Wonderful Life*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and even a new made-for-TV Muppet special, but do I really need to see television become all gooey for four weeks? I'd rather entertain *The Osbournes* on MTV and the boys of *South Park* on Comedy Central to enjoy a taste of decidedly cruel family antics.

*The Osbournes* have transformed into media darlings, and, in the process, have become more commercialized than any of them could have ever imagined. MTV garnered a humongous hit last season with the reality program and quickly sold the family for every last penny, and the family shrewdly played ball. Now, the second, and presumably final, season finds the once private, peculiar clan considerably altered. While the first season dwelt on their alternative family style and wealth, the second season quickly acknowledges the increased fame and fortune of the Osbournes by juxtaposing a Sharon and Ozzy invite (from media hound Fox News' Greta Van Susteren) to a White House Correspondents dinner with Jack and Kelly's trip to the

MTV Movie Awards. The media circus depicted here demonstrates considerable depth into reality programming. By allowing the cameras to film their newfound fame, the reality series actually feels more authentic.

Behind all the glam and gloss, the family does not cease to entertain mature audiences with their tight bond disguised under HBO language. With bleeps flowing through the dialogue, *The Osbournes* realizes a new language that is no less compassionate than the contrived teleplays of *Seventh Heaven* or *Providence*. Con-

**JONATHAN GROCE**  
GROCERY  
UNDERRATED

servatives refuse to understand this and quickly ignore the twisted morals detailed in each episode. In the premiere, Jack is disgustingly jealous of Kelly's fame (and her MTV record deal) and exhibits typical brother immaturity. Meanwhile, Sharon presides as matriarch over a strong family that genuinely cares for each other. Instead of chiding Jack, she lets him release his anger, if only to bring Kelly down a notch and to remind her son of his immaturity.

Sharon's public battle with colon cancer becomes a major issue of the second issue, and we witness her chemotherapy treatments and family reactions to her medical complications. Even the shrewdest critic cannot dismiss MTV's candid portrayal and the grace with which *The Osbournes* maintains a balance between family support and entertainment. Indeed, the clan may have more fame and fortune, but you have to respect the family, not for selling out, but for exploiting the industry and for the bravery to depict a personal matter with gusto and humor.

On the flip side, the indicting satire of *South Park* provides another alternative to disposable holiday-flavored Hollywood. After a short break during the summer and fall, the sixth season of *South Park* has regained control of the crowded Comedy Central airwaves, and the animated series is easily experiencing a newfound renaissance. Although *South Park* never exactly came close to jumping the shark,

the past two seasons have often struggled to overcome the superiority of their amazingly brilliant 1999 *South Park: Bigger, Longer and Uncut* film.

The creators of the series finally grew tired of the running "death to Kenny" jokes, and ultimately gave the poor boy a terminal illness. However, Kenny has lived on in spirit once corpulent Cartman, mistaking Kenny's ashes for chocolate milk mix, drank his deceased friend. With a nod to Spike Jonze's *Being John Malkovich*, Cartman experiences flashes as if he were in the body/mind of Kenny, encountering terrible memories etched in Kenny's soul forever. Meanwhile, with this unbeknownst to the Cartman and company, the boys begin to build a tower to Heaven to reclaim candy shopping spree tickets that Kenny supposedly left in his parka. The tower, in true *South Park* form, incites an international competition between the United States and China to see who can reach Heaven first. Politics and religion be damned.

*South Park*, easily the greatest satire currently existing in popular culture, gets miles out of their absurdist expositions. Sure, the family right demonizes both *The Osbournes* and *South Park* for lewd language and behavior, but I guarantee the youth of America learns more about politics, social problems and philosophy by watching *South Park* than Saturday morning cartoons, or even family sitcoms. In fact, *South Park*, while clearly targeting media and politics, often portrays alternative family life and morals that complicate traditions but do not necessarily overthrow them. Cartman's mom, Liane, for example, is probably the most radically feminist woman on television, a long cry from Carol Brady or even Marge Simpson. Furthermore, despite some gentle bashing, can you think of another positive portrayal of a Jewish family besides the Broslofski clan?

Staying current of their random targets, Matt Stone and Trey Parker have, in just a few short episodes, already paid homage to the *Lord of the Rings* franchise, lambasted *Harry Potter*, criticized gay affirmative action, upheld gay rights, proclaimed psychic John Edwards the "Biggest Douche of the Universe" and parodied time travel films. With no signs of relaxing their sharp daggers, Stone and Parker are quickly approaching episode 100. Granted, *The Simpsons* are close to episode



COURTESY OF SOUTH PARK PRODUCTIONS

**Chef's parents work their holiday magic on Eric Cartman in one of the latest *South Park* episodes.**

300, but this is still an amazing feat, especially for a crudely animated cable series that refuses to stop using flatulence for comedic mileage. Instead of slipping into repetition, Stone and Parker keep inventing new ways to challenge traditional narrative and characters and offer a unique cultural product that skewers the sacred cows, including

Christmas, in our contemporary age of political missteps and media-whores.

Even *The Osbournes* are game for destruction in the world of *South Park*, and this viewer wouldn't have it any other way. Both series are more than crude alternatives to frustratingly impulsive depictions of family values. Rather, the cruelty of reality is

rendered enjoyable in the circus world of Ozzy and the twisted mirror-world of Cartman. At times, hidden beneath the flow of bleeps, incomprehensible Ozzy and solipsistic Cartman will utter truly insightful reflections into the nature of family, reality and Christmas, while providing extreme entertainment to the attentive viewer.

## Solaris explores love and loss

**BY ANDY MOSKOWITZ**  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Arriving nearly a half-year after Steven Soderbergh's abysmal *Full Frontal*, *Solaris* marks the return of one of America's premier young directors. Quiet and contemplative in its mood, *Solaris* is not the science fiction epic you may have surmised. Instead, the film is a carefully crafted love story, and, while it employs sci-fi conventions (like alien beings and unexplored planets) to pose its ultimate question, that question remains tenderly human. As far spaceward as the movie takes us, it peers just as far inward, to our memories and emotions.

A remake of Russian Great Andrei Tarkovsky's 1972 film (based on Stanislaw Lem's novel), the film closely focuses on psychologist Chris Kelvin (George Clooney), a lone-some, sorrowful man who gets a message from an old colleague (Ulrich Tukur) working aboard the space station Solaris, which orbits a planet of the same name. Something is going

on, the man says, and a skeptical Kelvin goes to investigate. Upon arrival, he finds his colleague dead and two terrified crew members who give him cryptic bits of information. They must be insane, Kelvin concludes, until the next morning he wakes to find his dead wife (Natascha McElhone) beside him, very much alive. The planet, apparently, has a certain power.

Kelvin's relationship with his wife is told in a series of gracefully shot flashback/vignettes. Their story unfolds gradually, cut between scenes of Kelvin in the present, dealing with both the spooked Solaris crew and his "alien" wife. The planet has created Kelvin's wife from his memories, and, as we watch the flashbacks, we begin to see that the being beside him is not the woman he loved. More interestingly, the new wife is aware that she is a flawed copy. The question that confronts Kelvin is this: If Solaris created the being from his memories, and the being is not his wife, did Kelvin ever really know his wife at all?

The film doesn't answer the ques-

tion, and it doesn't need to. The answer is different for every person. The planet creates a unique, personalized entity for each member of the crew, and whatever lessons they learn are theirs alone. *Solaris*, however, does make one thing clear — that we, as humans, aren't prepared for such questions, since the microcosm of reactions runs from abject terror to suicide.

The film's main flaw is an emotional rift created when Kelvin first wakes to find his wife. When she arrives, we know nothing of their relationship, and while the disbelief on Clooney's face is appropriate enough, the moment lacks significant impact since she's still a stranger to the audience. As we learn more, her presence takes on more weight, but a crucial 15 minutes is weakened due to her unfamiliarity.

Still, *Solaris* remains one of the best films to use science-fiction conventions in years. It might not blow you out of your seat, but its emotional wallop is a ticking time bomb. You'll think about this one for days.

## Ararat is two movies fit into one

**BY JASON SHAHINFAR**  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

I wish I could be in the mind of Atom Egoyan. It must be a roller coaster ride of emotion, memories and interweaving ideas. I can imagine layers of dense information wrapped up in film and tied together at the end with a piece of string. This is also the only way I can describe his new film, *Ararat*. If you have ever seen an Atom Egoyan film, you probably know what I mean. If not, keep reading and judge for yourself.

*Ararat* is about the first genocide of the 20th century of the Armenians by the Turkish government and a film crew trying to bring this story to the screen. Writer/director Egoyan traces many stories of characters involved with the film to characters that interact with them and builds a large ensemble piece.

Another story involves a young man (David Alpay) whose mother (Arsinée Khanjian) has been signed onto the film as a historical consultant. His girlfriend claims that his mother murdered her father, and he has been grappling with this for some time now. Okay, that sounds confusing, but it makes more sense in the film.

Another story involves an airport security worker (Christopher Plummer) who is on his last day of work when he catches Alpay's character trying to smuggle something into Canada from Turkey (something he claims is film for the movie). Plummer's character is also dealing with his own issues since he is very religious and his 35-year-old son recently got a divorce and moved in with his gay lover.

There are many connections between characters and storylines. If you've seen *Exotica*, this film is done in almost the exact same style. The film is jumping around in time and you never know exactly what to think about each character until everything is resolved in the last 10 minutes (sort of).

What I find fascinating, though, is

Shot as a film within a film, *Ararat* is about the first genocide of the 20th century of the Armenians by the Turkish government, and the film crew trying to bring it to the screen.

Egoyan's connection to the story. He is Armenian himself, and a lot of his films usually deal with that fact. Here he is trying to shed some light on a huge tragedy that history has virtually forgotten. But all of the staged scenes, when they are filming the historical events, are purposely phony. Egoyan is obviously doing this for a reason.

Throughout the film many characters are discussing the "truth" and what is the "truth" of the events they

are reenacting, just like how Alpay's character is trying to grapple with the truth of what his mother really did. In the end we come to the conclusion that it is not possible to know the whole truth and therefore making a movie about this event is futile.

Maybe this is how Egoyan feels about his own film. It is impossible for him to actually make a movie about these events, so he stages them within this film as a representation of what could have been. But this only cuts down his subject matter, making it less important than what he probably wants. He makes the filmmakers within his film look foolish for trying to bring this story to the screen, since it is impossible.

But let's set aside what the director might have wanted (that's only my assumption). For what it's worth, *Ararat* is an amazing script. Egoyan is a master of knowing exactly where everything is going and leading his audience there. Most people look at *Magnolia* and *Short Cuts* as the big ensemble films, but Egoyan doesn't make his movies in that style. In *Short Cuts*, for example, a character will pass another in the street and suddenly the camera starts to follow that person. Egoyan doesn't make everything seem so separate; he actually makes you feel like you are watching one film. He builds up a whole little world for us to experience.

Atom Egoyan is a very interesting writer/director. All his films are extremely creative and powerful. He understands a lot about human emotion and has given us many original characters to watch on screen. If this short description intrigues you, then I recommend *Ararat*. It is not his best film, but it is intricate.

## David Gray follows up Ladder

After disappearing from the music scene, Gray rejoins the sway

**BY MAANY PEYVAN**  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

David Gray is a very conflicted man. His 1999 release, *White Ladder*, and its single, "Babylon," became massively popular, achieving critical as well as commercial success. It cemented Gray, along with Coldplay as a temporary bearer of emotional rock. As pop/rock listeners were irritated by Spears and 'NSync, offended by Eminem and jarred by the barbed-wire sounds of Radiohead's *Kid A*, Gray's experienced a meteoric success. Subsequently however, Gray's

father lost his battle against cancer, and now, four years later is Gray's elegy.

His new release, *A New Day at Midnight*, is not *White Ladder II*, but not a departure either. It is instead 12 songs, straight from the heart, from a man whose success has amplified his grief. The main theme here is loss, and it soaks Gray's work with a clear-eyed emotion that was most lacking from *Ladder*. *Ladder* was Gray sounding desperately melancholy. *Midnight* is the real deal.

This is what sadness sounds like. Gray's lyrics are steeped with pain.



COURTESY OF RCA RECORDS

David Gray brings one of this year's most cohesive albums to listeners.

# CARTOONS, ETC.

## your Horoscope



**ARIES:** (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)  
If you go another week without cleaning out your shower, you can start charging rent to the bacteria in there.



**TAURUS:** (APRIL 20-MAY 20)  
It should be self-evident that if you wait until the last minute to do your paper, it might not be possible to get that interview with Paul Wellstone.



**GEMINI:** (MAY 21-JUNE 20)  
Shows on Broadway can be expensive, but you can get in for free if you pretend to be playing a tree, like you did in third grade.



**CANCER:** (JUNE 21-JULY 22)  
I'll eat my hand if we get the day off for inclement weather. You'd better get snow treads on those tires and galoshes on those feet.



**LEO:** (JULY 23-AUGUST 22)  
Go back to Boston, you bean-loving, Nomar-rooting, silent 'r' using chowderheads! We don't want to hear about how great Yaz was.



**VIRGO:** (AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22)  
Sledding is a good way to harden your butt for a cross-country car trip. Just keep this medical fact in mind.



**LIBRA:** (SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22)  
On Mars, you weigh much less than you do here on earth. However, that doesn't give you license to eat that whole pecan pie by yourself.



**SCORPIO:** (OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21)  
The key to your success in the upcoming week is to send your assignments off to China to be done by prison labor. It's cheap and they write well under pressure.



**SAGITTARIUS:** (NOVEMBER 22 - DEC. 21)  
Slopes beckon, but you're back here in Baltimore, sitting in the library and procrastinating. You should have gone to Middlebury.



**CAPRICORN:** (DEC. 23 - JANUARY 19)  
Of all the things you can major in at Hopkins, why did you chose the one you did? The former Chairman of Enron will have an easier time getting a job.



**AQUARIUS:** (JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18)  
Mount your local mechanical bull and give it for a ride. It's the only ride you're getting this side of the reading period, so enjoy it.



**PISCES:** (FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20)  
Bloomberg may raise the taxes in New York City, but down here, we remember him as the guy who brought us our lovely bricks. Come back, Mike.

## SOCIETY

By NINA LOPATINA

Right: We're not sure who these guys are, but they seem to be having a good time at a baseball party.



Left: Freshman Christine Schrader gets comfortable with her homework.

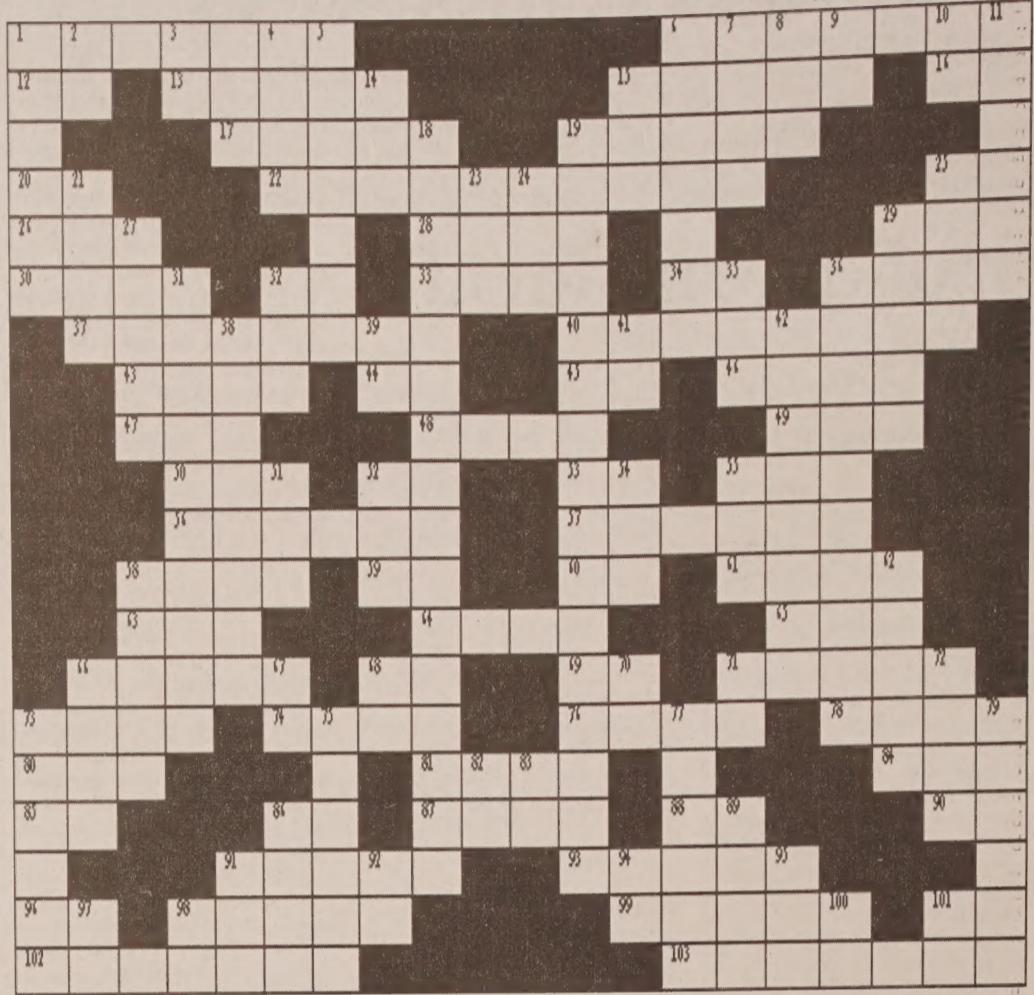
Happy Holidays



by Helen Bayer

## Crossword Theme: Movies

by Emily Nalven



### Across

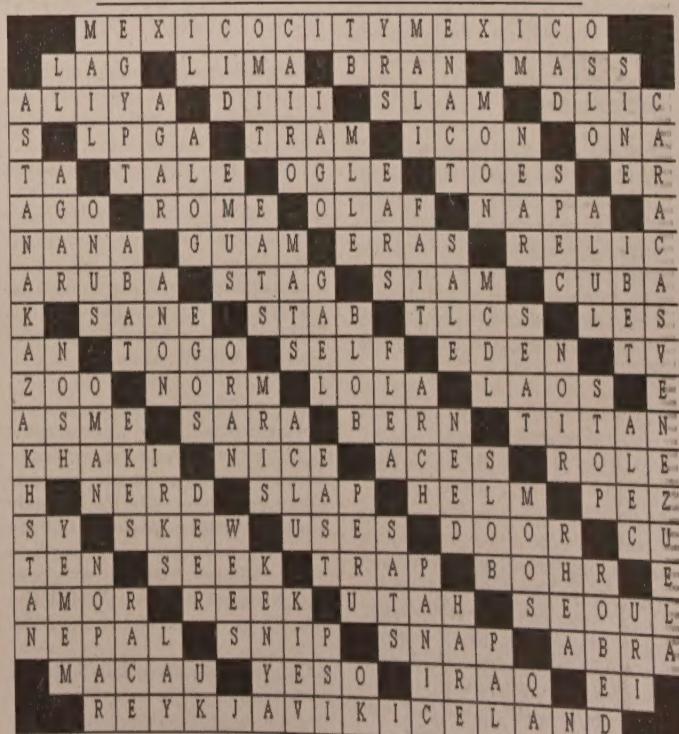
- make a movement with your hands; part of body language
- film about a guy who takes a lot of pictures and uses them to remember events
- right (abbr)
- something has gone — (2 words meaning not right)
- lighter in color
- nike phrase "just do —"
- just - the heck of - (fill in the blank)
- Ethan Hawke film "snow falling on -s" (1 word)
- advertisement (abbr)
- dad scream (2 words)
- big mac (French)
- Scandinavian airlines
- it goes on for- (eternity)
- film Ben-
- prepare for publication
- Speilberg film about a robot boy played by Haley Joel Osmond
- uniform electronic transactions act (abbr)
- Victory in Europe (abbr)
- 100s of years
- famous sci-fi film by George Lucas
- running on empty (2 words) must have some extra
- Germany, Italy and Japan were all called these nations; opposite of Allies
- continental organization in charge of the Euro coin (abbr)
- extra time in a football game (abbr)
- international treaty organization that was once a foe of the communist nations (abbr)
- free of, do away with, clear of
- very dry, also a brand of deodorant
- gifted and talented students (abbr)
- noise, hubub, or ruckus
- name of the Chicago train
- popular NBC show George Clooney used to star in
- John Lennon's wife Yoko
- popular brand + electronic equipment made by this company
- the light of the — (2 words)
- name of 12 former popes
- American University (abbr)
- wide shoe width
- Norwegian King
- available (abbr)
- not sweet
- type of monetary fund
- type, strain or class
- member of parliament (abbr)
- film about teenagers doing ecstasy at a rave on Christmas
- Disney film about a deer
- just or adequate
- Brazilian soccer great
- green with - (1 word); meaning jealous
- father a child
- stomach muscles (abbr)
- burn to a crisp
- horse food
- unione europea (abbr)
- argon is this on the periodic table
- Greek or Roman clothing
- 50 + 500 in old Rome
- New Hampshire (abbr)
- tills or cultivates as in a garden
- someone who goes looking in caves

- name of a talking horse - Mr.
- French food similar to a pan cake
- notes or messages
- circumference / diameter
- film in which Dustin Hoffman dresses in drag and was a 1982 Best Picture Oscar winner
- James Cameron film starring Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio about a boat sinking

### Down

- Musical starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton John
- Steven Speilberg film about an alien
- grad student who helps out professors in a college course (abbr)
- Fiddler on the — (old film and play)
- what the continent of Europe and Asia was called
- Drew Barrymore and Chris O'Donnell film about love
- Israeli airline company
- sea (French)
- emergency room (abbr)
- do, re, me, fa, so, la, —, do
- horror film starring Nicole Kidman "The —" (1 word)
- already set aflame
- Wee Herman (actor arrested for public nudity)
- Kevin Spacey film about a criminal named Keyser Soze
- Girard Depardieu film about a man with a large nose who writes beautiful love poetry to his cousin Roxanne
- papas or fathers
- first woman
- return (abbr)
- Au claire de la — (moon in French)
- Indian instrument similar to a guitar
- brave men or women
- film staring Robert DeNiro as a cabie directed by Martin Scorsese
- syllables said after seeing something cute
- emergency data network (abbr)
- fabric made of plants eli whitney made gins for + limbs on the upper torso
- French film about an engineer who tries to save his town from mosquito infestation; also a type of mockery or insult
- do again (prefix)
- name for an alien
- 1999 Tom Cruise film about life of many people in San Fran cisco
- rapper who sings Hate Me Now and Sweet Dreams
- actress Gabor
- type of bread served in a deli
- winning letters in tic-tac-toe
- capital of France
- Italian male model who stars in butter commercials
- film about a pig
- 1050 in old Rome
- off's opposite
- through or via
- country whose capital is Tehran
- valve, tap or spout
- continent west of Asia
- film about a girl who gets an unruly horse "National —"
- racial, cultural or national
- Santa's syllable
- silver is this on the periodic table
- game Jai —
- actress Moore
- public relations (abbr)
- us
- morning hr
- go bad
- perform or accomplish
- Connecticut (abbr)
- South Africa (abbr)
- film about a math genius also a Greek letter

## SOLUTIONS TO LAST PUZZLE



## CALENDAR

# Hardball host headlines Hopkins symposium

BY PETER ZOU  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

The host of one of television's finest hours of political debate will grace the stage at Johns Hopkins

University this week. Chris Matthews is scheduled to speak at Shriver Hall on Sunday, Dec. 8, at 8:30 p.m. as part of the Milton S. Eisenhower Symposium lecture series.

Matthews' participation in the elec-

## Holiday fun for all

BY ANITA BHANSALI  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

### BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

It's brilliance. Sheer brilliance. You, the jaded, world-weary Hopkins student, have the opportunity to indulge in a joy you haven't admitted to since elementary school. No, I don't mean eating paste — you can have breakfast with Santa! This weekend, get over to the Aquarium — which is fun to visit in its own right — enjoy good food and bring your holiday wish list to read to Santa Claus. He'll undoubtedly be a lot more sympathetic than your roommate; after all, he hasn't heard your horror stories from BioChem five times, and he just might hook you up with that voodoo doll you've been jonesin' for. Wandering around the National Aquarium is an added bonus, as it is truly one of the cooler places in Baltimore. And for those of you who are non-believers and have no sense of wonder, you can just pig out at the buffet.

Breakfast with Santa is happening this Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7 and 8. The Aquarium is located at 501 E. Pratt St. in Baltimore, and the event starts at 8:30 a.m. both mornings. Tickets range from \$17 to \$25 for adults, \$14 to \$22 for children; reservations must be made in advance. The box office can be reached at 410-576-3800. For more information, call 410-727-FISH.

### GINGERBREAD HOUSE DESIGN

The Baltimore International College is offering an afternoon cooking class entitled Gingerbread House Design that is just perfect for the holiday season. Let it never be said

that Baltimore stifles the creative spirit. Or, if it does, then at least here you have a chance to redeem your individuality. After all, it takes a true artist to design a gingerbread house with fluffy white frosting-snow on the roof and an attached missile base made out of graham crackers and jujubes. It sure does.

Baltimore International College is located at 17 Commerce St. The class will take place on Dec. 7 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. It costs \$20 for each parent and \$10 for each child. For more information contact Alexa McCulloch at 410-752-4710, ext. 191.

Go embrace your inner architect cum culinary artist cum military strategist, and bring home something slightly tastier than fruitcake.

### MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

The National Aquarium offers great activities during the holidays. This time, they're running two Friday tours of the decorated neighborhoods of Baltimore. The best part of all is that you get to enjoy the tour from the comfort of an authentic San Francisco trolley car. Are we feeling bicoastal yet? I think we are. This is an excellent way to see Baltimore at its most festive.

Nothing says holiday quite like bright lights. Lights everywhere. Especially those dark alleys — you know the ones. You might be inspired to liven up your dorm room or apartment with decorations of your own. And for the festive over-achiever, you might bring some festive holiday decorating ideas down to D-level with you. Everyone loves an animatronic Santa singing Happy Holidays at the top of its proverbial lungs!

The National Aquarium is located in the Inner Harbor. The tours are offered on Dec. 6 and 13, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. You can meet the trolley in Canton, and bring a box supper. For more information, call 410-576-3800.

ture series and subsequent book signings can be attributed to the hard work of Dennis Boothe and Meera Poppat, co-chairs of the MSE Symposium, as well as the rest of the staff.

Matthews is set to articulate on the topic *Crossing Borders: Looking Outward to a Connected World*. His speech should cover "what role America plays in an increasingly interdependent world, what influence it has on how the rest of the world views America, how we view ourselves and how it influences our American identity," said Poppat.

Matthews is the host of MSNBC's *Hardball*. In addition, he can often be seen as a commentator on NBC's *Today* show and is a syndicated columnist for the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Matthews has twice received *The Washington Post's* Crystal Ball award for his successful predictions of U.S. Presidential elections, according to a MSNBC press release.

Matthews has also written speeches for President Jimmy Carter and worked in the U.S. Senate for five years as a member of Senator Frank Moss' and Senator Edmund Muskie's staff, reports the MSNBC press release.

To some college students, Matthews is just another political journalist touting his views to a susceptible collegiate audience; but to others, he is a highly regarded journalist, who, through years of experience, has gained a respected and insightful interpretation of politics. His style of interview has captured a regular and fervently devoted *Hardball* audience for well over five years.

As caricatured by one of the foremost indicators of social influence, *Saturday Night Live*, Matthews is recognized as a formidable personality. Portrayed interviewing a sketch of fellow political debate host Paul Begala, Matthews achieved the upper hand in a battle of verbal wit. Such one-sided satire can not be entirely false. The truth in what *Saturday Night Live* relays is that Matthews is a respected journalist, political analyst and talk show host.

Matthews' lecture will be the final one as part of this year's MSE symposium. Journalist David Brock spoke earlier this year at the symposium on the dismal state of the media in covering politics. The question that remains is how will Matthews impress the Hopkins audience? It would seem that the only way to find out is by attending the upcoming lecture this week on Dec. 8, at 8:30 p.m. in Shriver Hall.

## Too hot to Handel now at BSO

BY ELLEN MINNIHAN  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

### GETTING CULTURED IS INEXPENSIVE AT B-MORE OPERA

In celebration of the upcoming holiday season, the Baltimore Opera Company will present a creative new production of composer Johann Strauss Jr.'s classic operetta, *Die Fledermaus*.

Directed by John Lehmyer and conducted by William Boggs, the production features well-known grand opera performers including Gary Eckhart, Susan Patterson, David Malis, Theodora Hanslowe and Jane Giering-De Haan.

"This is a new and special production of an old favorite," Michael Harrison stated in a press release. Harrison, the Company's General Director, went on to describe the show as "fresh, glamorous and romantic."

*Die Fledermaus*, or *The Bat*, is a light-hearted, comedic operetta set in 19th century Vienna. In the show, the characters attend a costume ball for a night of dancing, drinking, romance, revenge and mistaken identities. The show will be performed in English with English subtitles (which are lyric translations), so the audience can easily follow and enjoy the show. Pre-performance lectures are held before every show for those audience members who wish to learn more.

This performance is one of many shows included in the Baltimore Opera Company's Extreme Opera Program. Described in a press release as "a champagne experience on a beer budget," the program was created to promote a love for the opera among students and young adults ages 18 to 25.

Students participating in the program receive two free tickets and a season-sampler CD upon paying registration fees, and are offered subsequent tickets at a deeply discounted rate. For those who don't purchase the season-long package, the Company offers half-price tickets an hour before each performance to college students with valid ID.

Performances are scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 7 and Friday, Dec. 13 at 8:15 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 8 and Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3:00 p.m.; and Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lyric Opera House in Baltimore.

For more information about the Extreme Opera program, call the box office at 410-727-6000 or visit the Company's Web site at <http://www.lyricoperahouse.com>.

### TOO HOT TO HANDEL

On the evening of Saturday, Dec. 7, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra will begin its holiday season of events with a performance of *Too Hot to Handel: The Gospel Messiah* at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore.

*Too Hot to Handel* is a modern interpretation of 18th century English composer George Frederick Handel's most popular oratorio, *Messiah*. The show blends a mixture of jazz, R&B and gospel music into what reviewers from the *New York Post* described as the "most soulful reinterpretation of Handel's *Messiah* you'll ever hear." Since its conception and arrangement in 1993, *Too Hot to Handel* has been an audience favorite for its dynamic, high-energy elements.

This performance, led by special guest conductor Marin Alsop, showcases renowned vocalists such as soprano Natalie Oliver-Atherton, mezzo-soprano Vivian Cherry and tenor Thomas Young. The Morgan State University Boys Choir, under the direction of Dr. Nathan Carter,

will accompany the orchestra. A traditional rendition of *Messiah* will be performed by the Symphony later in the month.

The Symphony will feature several more special events throughout the month of December in celebration of the holidays. On Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m., the Symphony will present Bonnie Rideout's *A Scottish Christmas*. The performance will combine traditional Celtic sounds with energetic Scottish dancing and music. Rideout, who is touring with this show across the country throughout the month, is an award-winning fiddler and violinist whose music draws from her native roots in a fusion of Scottish and American sounds. The following Thursday, the Symphony will host the esteemed Vienna Choir Boys for a presentation of traditional and popular holiday music.

Tickets for any of these events range from \$22 to \$44 and can be purchased on the Symphony's Web site, <http://www.baltimoreysymphony.org>, or by calling the box office at (410) 783-8000.

## Historical Maryland

BY PATRICK KERNS  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

### POCOMOKE CITY

A trip to Pocomoke City is a great chance to get out of the city and experience rural Maryland. It's about a three-hour drive, but there are many places of interest in the area. On your way you'll pass near the town of Quantico, home of the FBI Academy (sorry, no tours).

In the Delmarva area (short for the triumvirate of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia) there are places of interest like Furnace Town, a historic 19th village staffed by artisans such as a blacksmith, broom-maker and printing shop storekeeper.

Pocomoke City offers various historically-flavored activities for entertainment. The Viewtrail 100 is a popular scenic trail for bikers and hikers. The Pocomoke City Chamber of Commerce on Market Street has a display of local artists this month. In addition, the Sturgis One Room School House and the Costen House Museum and Rose Garden are great chances to see what Maryland life was like back in years long past.

For more information, visit <http://www.sunspot.net>.

### A PIECE OF MONOPOLY

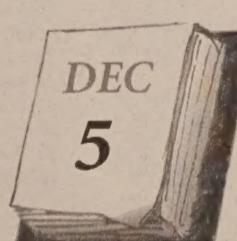
The B & O Railroad Museum is celebrating the advent of the railroad industry in America some 175 years ago. Portraits of the "railroad barons," on loan from the Smithsonian National Gallery, help visitors to visualize the great minds that revolutionized the way our country traveled. Throughout the month of December, the museum will be featuring several singers and musicians, as well as expansive model train displays.

The museum started out as a collection of historic trains. B & O Railroad exhibits at world exhibitions were so successful that in 1953 the railroad owners decided to open a permanent museum. Today, the museum boasts an impressive collection of steam and diesel engines, and many railroad curios to boot. There is also a research library that can be accessed for a fee.

Not only does the museum represent one of the most sought after pieces of real estate in the game of Monopoly, but it also has a connection to Hopkins. In 1828, the first stone for the B & Railroad company was laid by Charles Carroll, builder Hopkins' Homewood house. For more information on the museum, visit <http://www.sunspot.net>.

## CALENDAR

ON CAMPUS



### DECEMBER 5 TO 11

"Zits, Blisters and Scabs" climbing wall to get the full experience. For more information, call 410-704-2787.

11:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. **Hawaiian Flower Exhibit:** If winter just isn't your thing, check out Jerry Weinstein's Hawaiian flower exhibit at the American City Building, which features stunning photographs of the island's native flora. This exhibit is free to the public. For more information, call 301-405-2787.

6:00 p.m. **The Sounds of the Season:** Partake in tradition by witnessing the lighting of the Washington Monument. Then, listen as the Peabody Chamber Singers and the Peabody Concert Singers perform holiday music, with Donald Sutherland on organ. Admission is free and the concert is located in Griswold Hall. For more information, call 410-659-8100.

8:00 p.m. **The Nutcracker:** Stephens Hall Theater of Towson University presents its production of the holiday classic, *The Nutcracker*. Theirs is a production that includes special ef-

fects such as "a duel between the Mouse King and the Nutcracker." Tickets are \$10 for students. For more information, call 410-704-2787.

8:00 p.m. **Short Stories of Dance:** Witness MFA candidate Connie Fink's dance program, which will be performed in the Dance Theatre of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$8. For more information, call 301-405-2787.

8:00 p.m. **Pilobolus Dance Theater:** Visit the Kennedy Center in D.C. to witness the Pilobolus Dance Theater, whose "gymnastics and daring dance moves" will leave you wondering why you didn't opt for a career as a dancer. Ticket prices range from \$12 to \$36. For more information, call 800-444-1324.

We Call This Place Home: Visit the Jewish Museum of Maryland in Baltimore to gain insight into the way Jewish settlers in America lived. The museum exhibit includes various photographs and artifacts. Tickets are \$5. For more information, e-mail [AprilLand@jhu.edu](mailto:AprilLand@jhu.edu).

732-6400.

**The Artful Book: Selecting from a Contemporary Collection of Books by Artists:** Book connoisseurs Betty and Edgar Swerlin lend their amazing collection to the Walters Art Museum. Books in this exhibit force were chosen so that they would force visitors to the museum to challenge their conventional views on books. Special books, with unusual paper, printing techniques and bindings help bring home the notion that you shouldn't simply judge a book by its cover. For more information on the exhibit, call 410-547-9000.

**Tradition and Innovation: The South Italian Style of Greek Vase Painting:** The Walters Museum invites patrons to view their collection on South Italian vase painting. Initially, southern Italian vase painters used the Greek style of vase painting until they developed their own delightful style. View 10 vase paintings that were used in households, sanctuaries and as offerings to the Gods. For more information on the exhibit, call 410-547-9000.

### Friday, Dec. 6

ON CAMPUS

8:00 p.m. **Dirty Dancin' with the BSU:** Join the Black Student Union for some dinner and dancing, as well as romantically themed games in the Glass Pavilion tonight. For the cost of \$7 per person (couples pay \$12), enjoy activities such as Singled Out, Soul Train Line and a dance off couple's contest. The BSU will even crown a King and Queen of Diamond Paradise. For more information, e-mail [AprilLand@jhu.edu](mailto:AprilLand@jhu.edu).

## NIGHTLIFE

### CLUBS

Baja Beach Club, 55 Market Pl., 410-727-0468  
Bohagars, 701 S. Eden St., 410-563-7220  
Brass Monkey, 1601 Eastern Ave., 410-522-0784  
Buddies Pub and Jazz Club, 313 N. Charles St., 410-332-4200  
Cat's Eye Pub, 1730 Thames St., 410-276-9085  
Club 723, 723 S. Broadway, 410-327-8800  
Fletcher's, 701 S. Bond St., 410-558-1889  
Hal Daddy's, 4119 E. Lombard St., 410-342-3239  
Harry's, 1200 N. Charles Street, 410-685-2828  
Horse You Came In On, 1626 Thames St., 410-327-8111  
Latin Palace, 509 S. Broadway, 410-522-6700  
Lava Lounge, Pier Four, 410-539-7888  
Ottobar, 203 E. Davis St., 410-752-6886  
Paloma's, 15 W. Eager St., 410-783-9004  
Rec Room, 512 York Rd., 410-337-7178  
Redwood Trust, 200 E. Redwood St., 410-669-9500  
The Spot Nite Club, 2314 Boston St., 410-276-9556  
The Vault, 401 W. Baltimore St., 410-244-6000  
Waterfront Hotel, 1710 Thames St., 410-327-4886  
Wyatt's, 1614 Eastern Av., 410-732-8656

### COMEDY

Comedy Factory, 36 Light St., 410-752-4189  
Tracy's Comedy Shop, 9306 Harford Rd., 410-665-8600  
Winchester's Comedy Club, 102 Water St., 410-576-8558

### COFFEE

Borders Bookstore and Music, 415 York Road, 410-296-0791  
Cafe Tattoo, 4825 Belair Road, 410-325-7427  
Cuppa Cabana, 32nd and St. Paul Streets, 410-467-2200  
Donna's, 3101 St. Paul St., 410-889-3410  
E Level, Levering Hall, JHU, 410-516-6219  
Fell's Point Cafe, 723 S. Broadway, 410-327-8800  
Funk's Democratic Coffee Spot, 1818 Eastern Av., 410-276-3865  
Images Cafe, 3120 St. Paul St., 410-235-3054  
Margaret's Cafe, 909 Fell St., 410-276-5606  
One World Cafe, 100 W. University Parkway, 410-235-5777  
XandO, 3003 N. Charles St., 410-889-7076  
Ze Mean Bean Cafe, 1739 Fleet St., 410-675-5999

## CALENDAR

**10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. Bellydancing at CoffeeGrounds:** Come to CoffeeGrounds in the Mattin Center Café for free coffee, doughnuts, hot chocolate and a performance by the JHU Belly Dancing group. For more information, e-mail [coffeegrounds@jhu.edu](mailto:coffeegrounds@jhu.edu).

**9:30 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. Study Break:** Rip yourself away from those stale books and take a study break in the Great Hall in Levering tonight for a student concert. The concert will feature performances by Tom Grogan Experience, Jake, Andy Joiner Quartet and Shoot Middle Early. Admission is \$3. For more information, e-mail Jin at [jinpackman@hotmail.com](mailto:jinpackman@hotmail.com)

## OFF CAMPUS

**7:00 p.m. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer:** The classic Mark Twain novel will be performed tonight at the Kennedy Center in D.C. Tonight's adaptation of Twain's piece is produced by Ken Ludwig. Tickets are \$13. For more information, call 800-444-1324.

**7:00 p.m. Little Italy Tree Lighting:** Little Italy in Baltimore is the kickin' place to be tonight, as the "Italian" Santa Claus visits to help light the area's Christmas tree. The Choral Arts Society will be on hand to lend a festive tone to the season, as they carol and give out apple cider and roasted chestnuts. For more information, call 410-727-6876.

**7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Betty Buckley at the Kennedy Center:** Broadway veteran Buckley, known for her performances in *Cats*, *Gypsy*, *Pippin* and *Sunset Boulevard*, is set to perform her "jazz-infused cabaret" act tonight at the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater. Tickets are \$45. For more information, call 800-444-1324.

**8:00 p.m. Short Stories of Dance:** Witness MFA candidate Connie Fink's dance program, which will be performed in the Dance Theatre of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$8. For more information, call 301-405-2787.

**8:00 p.m. The Nutcracker:** Stephens Hall Theater of Towson University presents its production of the holiday classic, *The Nutcracker*. Theirs is a production that includes special effects such as "a duel between the Mouse King and the Nutcracker." Tickets are \$10 for students. For more information, call 410-704-2787.

**8:00 p.m. Pilobus Dance Theater:** Visit the Kennedy Center in D.C. to witness the Pilobus Dance Theater, whose "gymnastics and daring dance moves" will leave you wondering why you didn't opt for a career as a dancer. Ticket prices range from \$12 to \$36. For more information, call 800-444-1324.

**8:00 p.m. Having Our Say:** The stories of famous African-American sisters Sadie and Bessie Delany and Corlissat will be the subject of tonight's performance at the Arena Players Theater. Tickets are \$15 for students. For more information, call 410-728-6500.

**8:00 p.m. Hellcab:** Ever wondered what the day of a Chicago cab driver was like? Find out tonight, as the Howard Community College theater department puts on *Hellcab*, which is performed in the Theatre Outback. For more information, call 410-772-4515.

**9:00 p.m. Several Species Covers Pink Floyd:** The group Several Species will perform Pink Floyd's music tonight in the Recher Theatre in Towson. Tickets are \$15. For more information, call 410-481-SEAT.

**Miniature Artworks:** Who among us isn't amazed at the sheer delicacy and beauty of miniature artwork? Visit the Strathmore Hall Art Gallery for the 69th Annual International Society of Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers Exhibition. Over 500 pieces of artwork are on display, including pieces that are no bigger than 25 square inches. For more information, call 310-530-0540.

**Art War and the Morgan Library's Medieval Picture Bible:** The Walters Art Museum invites visitors to attend this exhibit on the medieval picture Bible, produced in France in the 13th century, which is on loan from the J.P. Morgan Library in New York City. The Bible is currently disbound, which will allow visitors to see all of the pages at once. In addition, the museum has

an education gallery, a symposium, storytelling and a display portraying life in the 13th century. For more information on the exhibit, call 410-547-9000.

## Saturday, Dec. 7

## ON CAMPUS

**7:00 p.m. Johns Hopkins Animation Club Showings:** Join the Anime Club in Shriner as they display the newest shows straight from Japan, as well as many old-time favorites. For more information, e-mail Oliver at [ollie@jhu.edu](mailto:ollie@jhu.edu).

**PreLaw: LSAT:** Join the preprofessional advising team in Mudd Hall Auditorium as they review aspects of the LSAT exam. For more information, visit <http://www.jhu.edu/~preprof>.

**8:00 p.m. Brahms' Symphony:** Join the Hopkins Symphony Orchestra for a night of classical music, conducted by Tom Hall, Mark Hardy and Brian Stone. Tonight, the HSO performs Johannes Brahms' *Nanie Opus 82*, *Schicksalslied Opus 54* and *Symphony No. 2 in D major Opus 73*. The Johns Hopkins Choral Society and Goucher College Choir join the HSO in Shriner Hall tonight. For more information, visit <http://www.jhu.edu/~jhso>.

## OFF CAMPUS

**11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Just Paint:** Visit the Maryland Art Place for its newest exhibit, Just Paint, featuring works by artists Gerald Ross, Carolyn Case and Daniel Randall. For more information, call 410-962-8565.

**1:00 p.m. Looking at Art with David Tannous:** Join renowned art curator David Tannous as he leads a tour in Strathmore Hall's Phil Metger exhibit and the Invitational Gallery's Holiday exhibit. For more information, call 301-530-0540.

**1:00 p.m. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer:** The classic Mark Twain novel will be performed tonight at the Kennedy Center in D.C. Tonight's adaptation of Twain's piece is produced by Ken Ludwig. Tickets are \$13. For more information, call 410-728-6500.

**2:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Pilobus Dance Theater:** Visit the Kennedy Center in D.C. to witness the Pilobus Dance Theater, whose "gymnastics and daring dance moves" will leave you wondering why you didn't opt for a career as a dancer. Ticket prices range from \$12 to \$36. For more information, call 800-444-1324.

**6:00 p.m. Avril Lavigne at Bohager's:** Mix 106.5 is bringing the anti-Britney to Baltimore. Avril Lavigne will perform at Bohager's Bar and Grill tonight, as Danna Glover and Josh Dodes open for her. For more information, call 410-481-SEAT.

**6:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. The Ninth Night of 100 Elvises:** Over a dozen bands and 10 Elvis impersonators will be on hand to commemorate the king in Lithuanian Hall tonight. Classic Elvis far, such as peanut butter and banana sandwiches, will be served. For more information, call 410-685-5787 or 410-494-9558.

**8:00 p.m. Having Our Say:** The stories of famous African-American sisters Sadie and Bessie Delany and Corlissat will be the subject of tonight's performance at the Arena Players Theater. Tickets are \$15 for students. For more information, call 410-728-6500.

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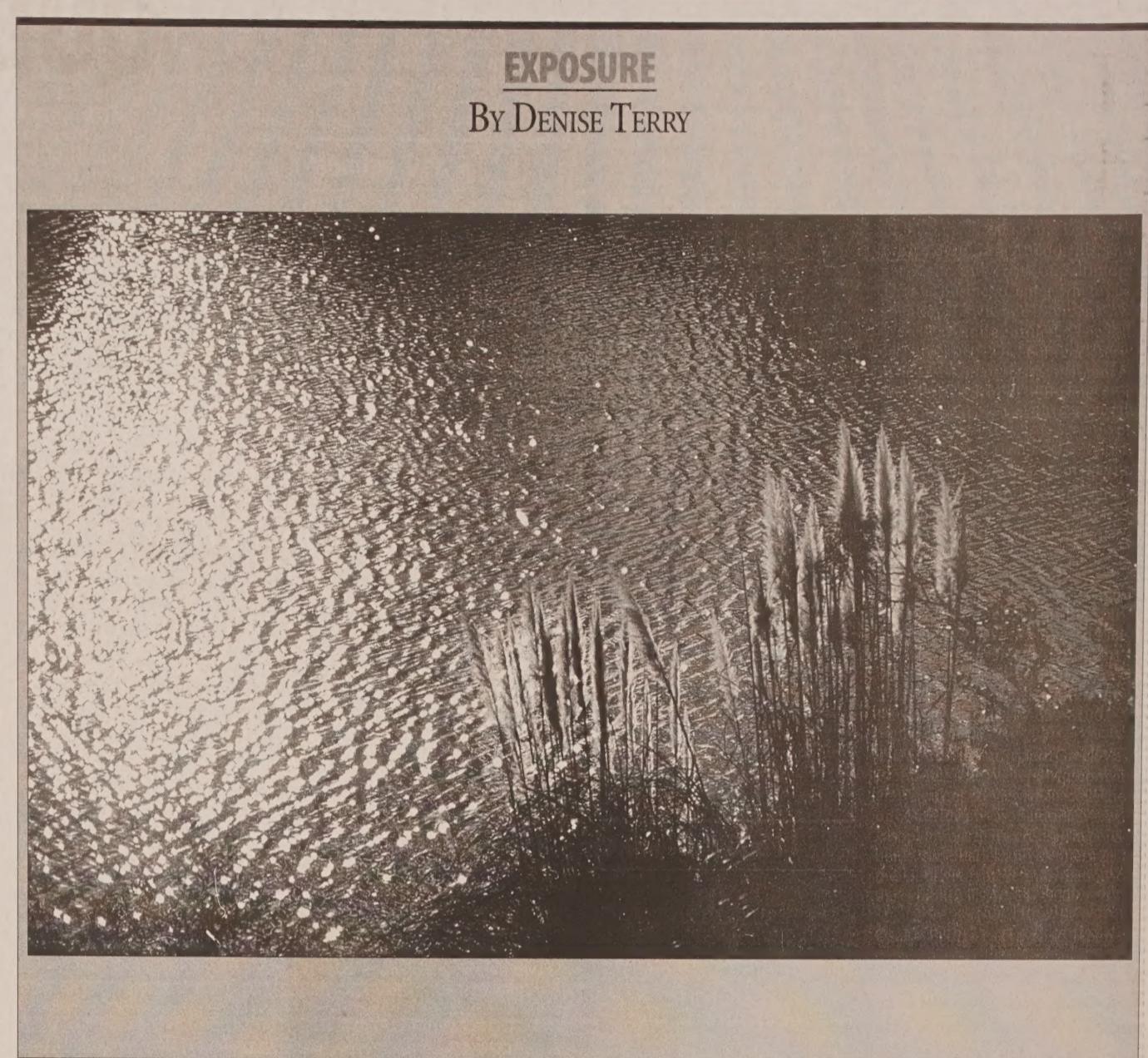
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**Habitat for Humanity Dedication:**



## EXPOSURE

By DENISE TERRY

Celebrate with the Hopkins Habitat for Humanity club as they participate in a dedication ceremony for their most recently finished house. Tours of the house will be given. For more information, e-mail [AMT@jhu.edu](mailto:AMT@jhu.edu).

Corlissat will be the subject of tonight's performance at the Arena Players Theater. Tickets are \$15 for students. For more information, call 410-728-6500.

**7:00 p.m. Aimee Mann at Recher Theatre:** Aimee Mann, the lead singer from Til Tuesday, will perform tonight at Towson's Recher Theatre. Mann was nominated for an Oscar in 2000 for the song *Save Me*. Tickets are \$25. For more information, call 410-481-SEAT.

**We Call This Place Home:** Visit the Jewish Museum of Maryland in Baltimore to gain insight into the way Jewish settlers in America lived. The museum exhibit includes various photographs and artifacts. Tickets are \$5. For more information, call 410-732-6400.

**In and Out of Focus, Images From Central Africa:** Examine the influence that works by European and American photographers, such as Casimir Zagourski, had on the globe's understanding of central African life. This exhibition is located at the Smithsonian Museum. For more information, call 202-357-2700.

## Monday, Dec. 9

## ON CAMPUS

**4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Algebraic Topology Seminar:** Join Ismar Volic of Brown University in Krieger 302 for a discussion on Algebraic Topology. For more information, visit <http://www.webapps.jhu.edu>.

**OFF CAMPUS**

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 a.m. **Grossology:** Remember the times of "cooties" and yelling "eww" when you saw a scab? Well, the Maryland Science Center has an exhibit that allows visitors to examine the "slimy, oozy and crusty characteristics of the human body," according to a press release. Learn about what causes gas, what constitutes urine and how the nose does its vital job. Be sure to climb the "Zits, Blisters and Scabs" climbing wall to get the full experience. For more information, call 410-685-5225.

**11:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Hawaiian Flower Exhibit:** If winter just isn't your thing, check out Jerry Weinstein's Hawaiian flower exhibit at the American City Building, which features stunning photographs of the island's native flora. This exhibit is free to the public. For more information, call 410-740-8249.

**7:30 p.m. Ax Rose at MCI Center:** Ax Rose of Guns 'n' Roses will perform at the MCI Center tonight in

D.C. Mix Master Mike will open. Tickets are \$33 to \$68. For more information, call 410-481-SEAT.

formation, contact Haley Morrison at 410-419-5396.

## OFF CAMPUS

**10:00 a.m. - 5:00 a.m. Grossology:** Remember the times of "cooties" and yelling "eww" when you saw a scab? Well, the Maryland Science Center has an exhibit that allows visitors to examine the "slimy, oozy and crusty characteristics of the human body," according to a press release. Learn about what causes gas, what constitutes urine and how the nose does its vital job. Be sure to climb the "Zits, Blisters and Scabs" climbing wall to get the full experience. For more information, call 410-685-5225.

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**12:30 p.m. Robert Long House & Garden Walking Tour:** Enjoy a walk through Long's property, the oldest house in Baltimore. For more information, call 410-675-6750.

**11:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Hawaiian Flower Exhibit:** If winter just isn't your thing, check out Jerry Weinstein's Hawaiian flower exhibit at the American City Building, which features stunning photographs of the island's native flora. This exhibit is free to the public. For more information, call 410-740-8249.

**7:30 p.m. Join the Peabody Chamber Winds as they perform Mozart's Serenade No. 12 in c minor and Paul Hindemith's Septet.** This concert is conducted by Harlan Parker and is located in Griswold Hall. For more information, call 410-659-8100.

**The South Italian Style of Greek Vase Painting:** The Walters Museum invites patrons to view their collection on South Italian vase painting. View 10 vase paintings that were used in households, sanctuaries and as offerings to the Gods. For more information on the exhibit, call 410-547-9000.

**Osaka Prints I:** Travel to Japan as you witness striking portraits of 19th century Japanese Kabuki theatre actors. This exhibit is located in the Hackerman House mansion, which is part of the Walters Art Museum. For more information on the exhibit, call 410-547-9000.

## Wednesday, Dec. 11

## ON CAMPUS

**8:00 p.m. Prometheus Forum:** Visit the AMR IMPR to debate philosophical topics with the members of *Prometheus*, Hopkins' undergraduate Philosophy journal. For more information, call 410-547-9000.

# THE RELIGION QUIZ

Sponsored by Eddie's Liquors  
 (3109 St. Paul St., 243-0221)  
 and Eddie's Market  
 (3117 St. Paul St., 889-1558).  
 Win \$10 worth of munchies.  
 Must redeem within 30 days.

December, oh holy month, is sacred for more than one religion. Quizmaster M's religious knowledge gleaned from many a Sunday school has long since been replaced by more tedious subjects such as Calculus, Physics and Computer Science. So this week, I'm turning the Quiz over to the capable hands of Quizmaster D. Let him lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from movie quizzes.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.FREESTOCKPHOTOS.COM  
*This book is often found on best-seller lists.*

cred, kids.

Get your answers in by 5 p.m. on Tuesday. You can bring them in to the office, e-mail them to [news.letter@jhu.edu](mailto:news.letter@jhu.edu) or fill out the quiz online ([at http://www.jhunewsletter.com](http://www.jhunewsletter.com)). The winner gets \$10 worth of goodies from our sponsors, Eddie's Market and Eddie's Liquors on the 3100 block of St. Paul. So just fill out the quiz and win \$10 worth of stuff. Do the quiz, lest I smite you!

1. Since they started making lists about it, The Bible has been way up there on the Bestseller's List — probably the most successful author this side of Jonathon Franzen to score big without going on Oprah. Now, for Christians, The Bible means the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament and the New Testament. For Jewish people (Quizmaster D included), the Old Testament is quite enough, not that Revelations isn't a good read or anything. What is the Hebrew term that Jewish people use to refer to the Hebrew Bible which is comprised of the Five Books of Moses, the Prophets and the Scrolls/Writings? Clue: it's a Hebrew acronym.

2. About 2,500 years ago in ancient China, the state of Lu to be precise, a little known Minister of Justice from the Kong family started making some waves. Later called Master Kong or Kongfuzi — latinized as Confucius by his students, Confucius traveled with his school from state to state looking for a ruler that would give him the opportunity to put his ethical philosophy into action. Alas, he died at the ripe old age of

72 without having achieved his goal. But, his students and the students of his students collected his statements into a book. What is the title of this 20 chapter book as it is usually translated into English? (and for an extra point ... what is it in Chinese?)

3. It's estimated that around a third of the people in the world consider themselves Christians of one stripe or another. While the varying groups may disagree over important points, all of these denominations agree on one thing — Jesus was on to something. In case you missed that day in school, Christians believe that Jesus was the Son of God, among other things. From Thomas Aquinas to Amy Grant, many prominent (or, in Amy Grant's case, irritating) people have had something to say about Jesus' life and work. Which American president compiled his own version of the Gospel eliminating all references to Jesus' divinity, focusing solely on the ethical teachings?

4. Speaking of monotheism, in 1469, Guru Nanak founded the Sikh religion in what is today the Punjab state in northern India. Today, a traditional Sikh person can be recognized by the outwardly visible signs of the Khalsa, which means "The Pure." The 10th guru, Guru Gobind Singh, instituted the Khalsa order in 1699 and since then has been a centerpiece of Sikh religious practice. What are the five things that a Khalsa wears? Clue: in Panjabi, each of the items begins with an equivalent of the letter K, so they are often called the Five K's.

5. Five is clearly a popular number among religious types. As seen above, Sikhs have the Five K's. Jews and Christians have the Five Books of Moses. Confucius had the Five Classics. The Muslims also have five of something

I love you all!" Fill in those blanks, and let's move on to number seven.

7. On Oct. 6, 1965, Sandy Koufax, everyone's favorite Jewish pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers, wouldn't play in the World Series against the Minnesota Twins because of a certain holiday. Now, what holiday am I talking about, baseball fans? And, what holiday precedes the one mentioned above by 10 days? For an extra point, what is the name of the Jewish month that precedes that holiday?

8. When a prince named Siddhartha Gautama of the Shakya tribe went off to find enlightenment in the forests of what is today Nepal, little did anyone know what a big splash he'd make on his return. After a course of severe asceticism, during which it is rumored he only ate one grain of rice a day, Siddhartha, later called the Buddha, or Enlightened One, fell into the water in exhaustion. Upon reaching the shore, he began another course of inquiry that ultimately led him to deep meditation beneath an ancient Bodhi tree. Upon awakening, he went off to preach the truths that he had found. How many Noble Truths did he teach, and how many folds does his path have (i.e. the BLANK-fold Path)?

9. Speaking of the sub-continent, in the ancient story of the Bhagavad-Gita, Arjun, one of the five Pandav brothers, is faced with a dilemma: should he fight in a war against his own relatives or should he refuse to fight, and thereby not fulfill his duty? His charioteer has some words of wisdom for him; who is this charioteer?



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.BABAJI.NET/  
*This Enlightened One had many Nobel Truths to tell.*

Tiebreaker: name as many religions and denominations (not mentioned above) as you can.

The winner of the Bond Quiz was Mike DeSantis.

#### Answers to The Bond Quiz

1. Dr. No
2. Auric Goldfinger
3. Nuclear Physicist
4. Xenia Onatopp
5. Timothy Dalton, George Lazenby, Roger Moore
6. Connery - Dr. No
- Dalton - The Living Daylights
- Lazenby - On Her Majesty's Secret Service
- Moore - Live and Let Die
- Brosnan - Goldeneye
7. Hank Scorpio
8. Garbage
9. The Man With the Golden Gun
10. Aston Martin DB5



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.SIKHMISSION.COM  
*Sikhs wear five traditional items of the Khalsa.*

to anger management class. At the end of the episode, Homer is sitting in a port-o-potty threatened by a charging rhinoceros when Marge comes to his rescue. What three deities does Homer invoke to protect him from the rampaging beast? His slightly blasphemous prayer was along the lines of "\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

## EXPOSURE

BY VADIM GRETCHOUCHKIN

